■ BUSINESS / B1

Foreign investments jump 69% to $812M from January to Sept.

■ STORY BELOW

Revolutionary transition gov't in place, says Abat

■ NEWS/ A2

Senate fed up, cites Bolante in contempt

■ ENTERTAINMENT / A3-1

Steven Spielberg's dream ends; Paramount acquires DreamWorks for $1.6 B

Python leaves tough cops cowering in fear

MAY SAWA SA ILALIM NG PULIS!

POLICEMEN WANTED TO scamper away when a two-meter python escaped in their station in Quiapo, Manila. They opted to stay, however, because of the presence of a TV crew from GMA 7.

PYTHON / A22

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, December 14, 2005 ★★★ 9 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 6 P18

Senate to Comelec execs: Resign now

IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS. Presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. and wife Susan took off from a motorcade campaign in March 2004 in Pasil, Cebu City, to be by themselves, to share a moment, exchange confidences and just delight in the nearness of one to the other.

PDI PHOTO

Susan: Tapes vindicate my husband

By Fe Zamora

ON THE EVE OF THE FIRST DEATH anniversary of Fernando Poe Jr., his widow Susan Roces yesterday said she "feels vindicated" by the "Hello Garci" tapes.

Roces said only President Macapagal-Arroyo could solve the political crisis that has engulfed the presidency.

"That's her problem. I'm not making that my problem. Sometimes, we get to the end of [the road] so we have to decide," she said.

Even in death, Roces said she felt her husband was "still very much" involved with current political events.

For instance, she noted: "Why did Garcillano choose to come out now, not last month, not the other month? Why now, in the month of FPJ's death? Now they are talking again about what happened during the last elections."

The "Hello Garci" tape, which continues to haunt Ms Arroyo, was exposed in June, triggering the worst political crisis to hit her four-year administration.

SUSAN/ A8

Garci's plaint: Nobody believes me

By Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac

VIRGILIO GARCILLANO HIMSELF summed up the conundrum of the "Hello Garci" tapes and why there could be no closure to the scandal that nearly toppled the Arroyo presidency—he had a credibility problem.

"I surfaced because I want to clear things up but the problem is, it seems that nobody believes whatever it is I say," Garcillano said yesterday in his second appearance before a House inquiry.

The former election commissioner had disappeared after wiretapped conversations allegedly between him and President Macapagal-Arroyo were released in June. The opposition said the recordings were evidence Ms Arroyo stole the presidential election last year.

The 68-year-old Garcillano emerged late last month and told reporters he did not leave the Philippines. He dismissed a Singapore diplomatic note that said he had gone to the city-state on July 14 en route to a third country. He also denied conspiring with Ms Arroyo to rig last year's election.

Garcillano repeated these denials last week when he first appeared before the five House committees conducting the joint inquiry into the

GARCI'S/ A8

P1.24-B computer contract fraudulent

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

WHAT GOES AROUND comes around—or so they say.

And for the "egregiously fraudulent" contract for the purchase of P1.24 billion worth of automated counting machines in 2003, the entire Senate is demanding the resignation of all but one of the election commissioners.

A "shocked" Benjamin Abalos, chair of the Commission on Elections, rejected the demand.

The plenary adopted on Monday night Report No. 44 of the Senate blue ribbon committee, which had found the commissioners and the members of the Comelec's Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) liable for prosecution for the "Comelec modernization scam."

The investigation was prompted by the privilege speech of Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. titled "Mega Bucks Blind Comelec," on Aug. 18, 2004.

Abalos protested the call for his and his colleagues' resignation.

"I was shocked," said the Comelec chair, who was grilled by sen-

SENATE/ A8

REUTERS

POWER-PACKED LINEUP: Asean leaders file in to sign the Framework Agreement on Asean-South Economic Cooperation at the Asean summit in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday. From bottom to top, President Arroyo, Malaysia's PM Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, South Korea's President Roh Moo-hyun, Laos' PM Bounnhang Vorachith and Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

TELECOM WOES

Victims fight back; police make arrests

By Juan V. Sarmiento Jr., Clarissa S. Batino and Nancy Carvajal

(Last of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

THICK SMOKE BILLOWING FROM THE BACK OF A basketball court during a downpour before dawn gave them away.

On a tip from a resident of Soldiers' Hills Subdivision in Muntinlupa, barangay police arrested Mario, 19, and Carlos, 14, in August. (The names have been changed.)

Recovered from them were 50 meters of PLDT cables that they were burning to remove the rubber coating, said Roger Bagulay, desk officer at the Barangay Putatan Police.

VICTIMS/ A4

Solons don't buy line AFP can't tap cell phone

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SENATORS LOOKING INTO THE "Hello Garci" tape scandal were stumped yesterday by claims of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga that the military, despite its P45-billion budget, had no capability to tap cell phone conversations and, thus, could not have been the source of the controversial tape.

Senga made the bold assertion during a luncheon meeting with Senate President Franklin Drilon on the eve of hearings by the Commission on Appointments, which can confirm or bypass Senga's appointment as military chief.

Senga's claim clashed with the findings of an INQUIRER special report in September which recounted how Rear Adm. Tirso Danga, on as-

SOLONS/ A21

Abat: Transition gov't in place

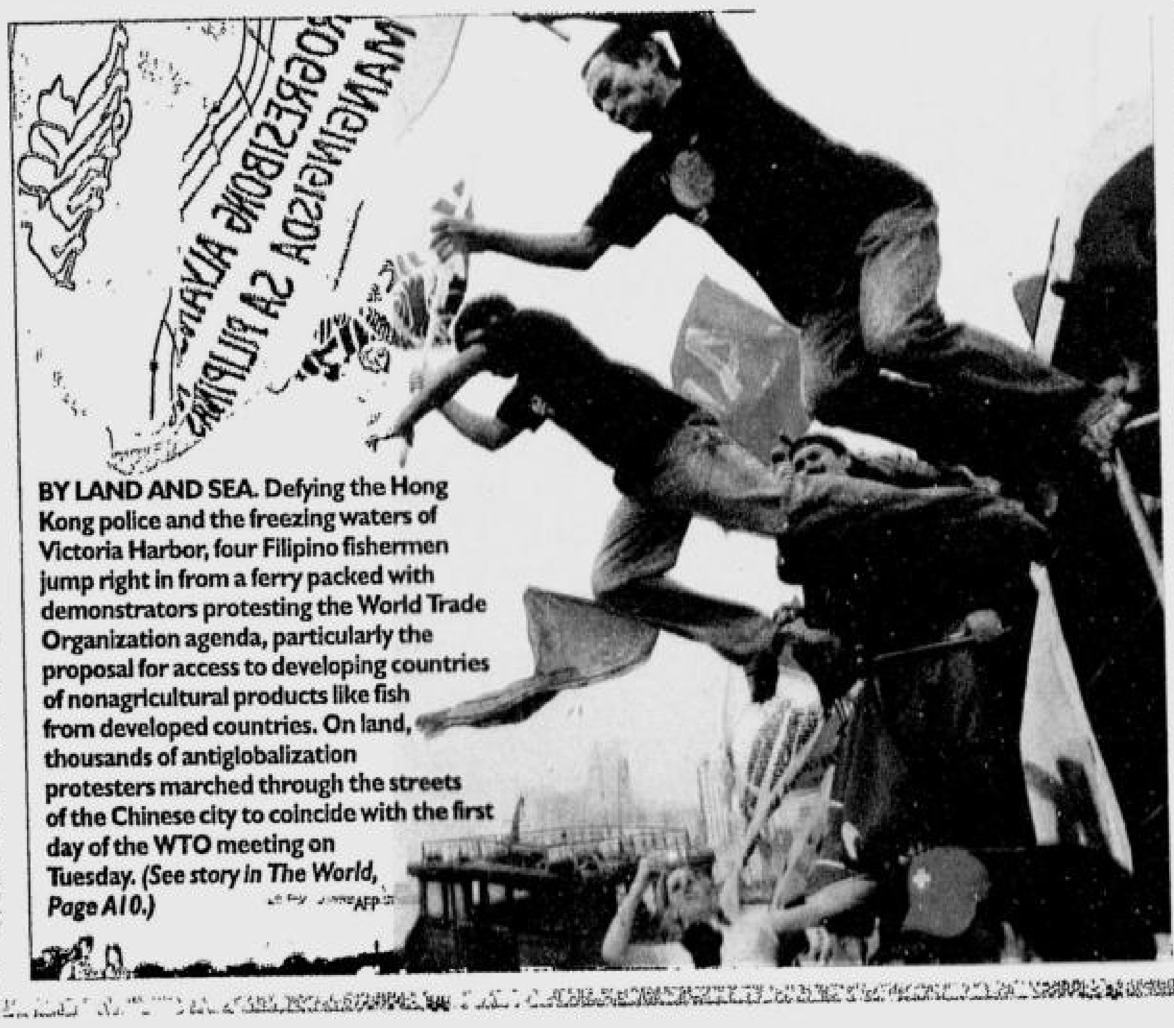
By Luige A. del Puerto and Fe B. Zamora

FORMER DEFENSE SECRETARY Fortunato Abat proclaimed at midnight on the eve of Fernando Poe Jr.'s first death anniversary a revolutionary transition government and declared himself president in a new challenge to the Arroyo government.

At press time, the group was waiting for several military officers to come forward and declare support.

The retired general also called on the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo and "protect the sovereign right of the people."

ABAT/ A21



BY LAND AND SEA. Defying the Hong Kong police and the freezing waters of Victoria Harbor, four Filipino fishermen jump right in from a ferry packed with demonstrators protesting the World Trade Organization agenda, particularly the proposal for access to developing countries of nonagricultural products like fish from developed countries. On land, thousands of antiglobalization protesters marched through the streets of the Chinese city to coincide with the first day of the WTO meeting on Tuesday. *(See story in The World, Page A10.)*

AFP

We can do it too, vow para athletes

By Luige A. del Puerto

DESPITE THE LACK OF government support, some 150 Filipino athletes competing in the 3rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Para Games are determined to do their country proud.

The Para Games, a biennial sports competition of persons with disabilities (PWDs), opens today at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Manila, with the national euphoria over the recent 23rd Southeast Asian Games still in the air.

Over 1,000 of the finest para athletes from Southeast Asia are competing in the weeklong event, in such

WE CAN/ A22

Second FRONT PAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the eastern section which may trigger flash floods and landslides over Eastern Visayas.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/12/14/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Senate fed up, cites Bolante for contempt

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE SENATE YESTERDAY MADE IT KNOWN TO JOCELYN "JOC-Joc" Bolante that it had had enough of his capers. The chamber cited him for contempt and ordered his arrest.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the Senate committee on agriculture, said Bolante, the former Department of Agriculture undersecretary in charge of the controversial P728 million fertilizer fund, would be bodily brought to the Senate the moment he returns to the country.

Senate President Franklin Drilon issued the arrest warrant after he and 18 other senators signed a joint order of the Senate blue ribbon and agriculture committees finding Bolante in contempt. The committees are investigating allegations that the fertilizer fund was diverted to last year's election campaign of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The fund was distributed to more than 100 members of the House of Representatives three months before the 2004 election but the Department of Agriculture could no longer find the documents covering the disbursements.

Bolante, a close friend of Ms Arroyo's husband, was held in contempt for repeatedly snubbing Senate subpoenas – four so far – compelling him to attend the joint investigation. Despite his lawyer's promises he would attend, Bolante gave the Senate the slip twice when he left on Oct. 26 and on Dec. 11 on the eve of the hearings.

The joint committees ruled that Bolante was delaying, impeding and obstructing the inquiry and for these, he was "hereby cited in contempt of the committees and ordered arrested and detained in the Office of the Senate sergeant at arms, until such time that he will appear and give his testimony."

The order was signed by Magsaysay and blue ribbon chair Sen. Joker Arroyo. Other senators who signed were Rodolfo Biazon, Manuel Villar, Manuel Lapid, Sergio Osmena III, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Panfilo Lacson, Richard Gordon, Francis Pangilinan, Jinggoy Estrada, Alfredo Lim, Juan Ponce Enrile, Jamby Madrigal, Juan Flavier, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Pia Cayetano, Luisa "Loi" Ejercito and Drilon.

Magsaysay also asked the Bureau of Immigration and the Philippine National Police to help arrest Bolante as soon as he showed up from his frequent overseas trips which coincided with the Senate hearings.

The Senate issued the order despite a last-minute appeal expressing "sincerest apologies" from Bolante's lawyer, Antonio Zulueta.

"At the same time, we wish to assure the committee that Mr. Bolante had no intention – nor will he ever harbor the intention – of snubbing the panel's hearings in aid of legislation," Zulueta said in a letter.

"We also appeal to the good senators to extend a little more understanding toward the plight of Mr. Bolante, who had to leave for abroad last Sunday, 11 December, in order to fulfill long-standing commitments," he said.

Davide taunts critic: Impeach me

By Armand N. Nocum

IMPEACH ME NOW.

Thus did outgoing Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. taunt his critics who tried to have him impeached in 2003 over charges of irregularities in the funds of the judiciary and over the refurbishing of court buildings nationwide.

Delivering the last of the Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. Distinguished Lecture Series in the elegantly upholstered Supreme Court session hall yesterday, Davide said he did not regret ordering improvements to the tribunal's main building as well as constructing new courts all over the country in line with his goal of giving dignity and respect to the judiciary.

"Because we beautified this (hall), this was cited as one of the grounds for my impeachment. I am willing to be impeached now. Anyway, I am six days away from retirement," he said. Davide is retiring on Dec. 20.

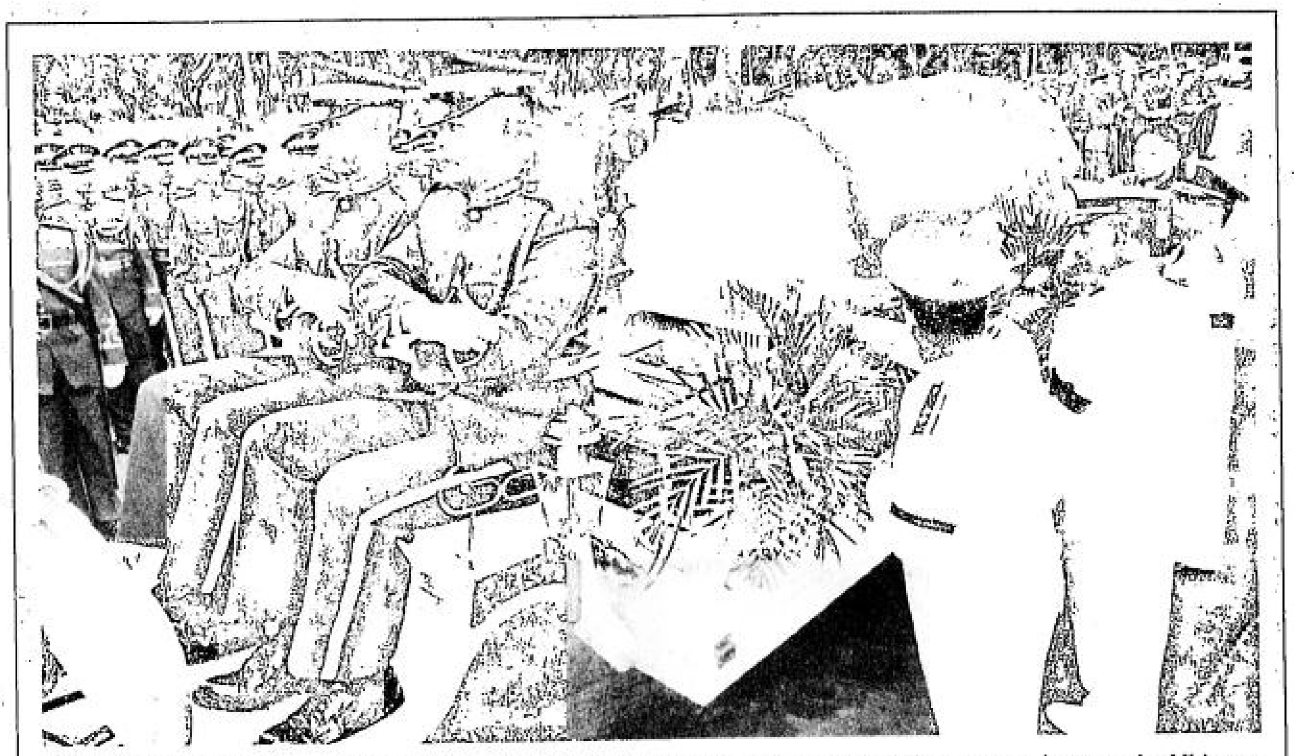
During his seven-year watch, which began in 1998, he said he completed a new tax appeals building and a P70-million hall of justice in Cebu. He said that in that time, 257 halls of justice and 283 court buildings were put up.

But he said his biggest legacy, apart from the Supreme Court's landmark decisions and improvements in court procedures, were the judicial reforms he carried out in earnest.

Davide said his term saw 375 Regional Trial Court judges and 372 Municipal Trial Court judges dismissed, suspended, fined or admonished.

In contrast, from 1986 to 1998, only 256 RTC and 313 MTC judges were penalized.

"So you can see how far we have gone in disciplining judges," Davide said.



THE REMAINS of National Artist Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero brought to his rightful place among heroes, the Libingan ng Mga Bayani.

Freddie finally among heroes

By DJ Yap

TEN YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH, the man who literally brought Philippine theater to the Filipino's doorstep has finally taken his place among the country's heroes.

In simple and solemn rites, the late National Artist Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero, theater artist and teacher, was laid to rest yesterday at the Sanctuary for National Artists at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig.

Guerrero's remains, buried at the Himlayang Pilipino in Quezon City, were exhumed on Monday and brought to the Catholic Chapel of the University of the Philippines in Diliman for an overnight vigil.

There was a 9 a.m. funeral Mass yesterday at the UP Chapel, followed by a procession to Palma Hall, where UP students, teachers and alumni threw blue and white confetti at the hearse carrying Guerrero's remains.

In a casket draped with the Philippine flag, "Freddie" was transferred to the Libingan ng mga Bayani, accompanied by soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Mentor to the brightest talents in the local performing arts, Guerrero founded and organized the UP Mobile Theater (UPMT), a traveling band of performers staging plays all over the country from 1962 until 1981.

"We performed in cockpits, on top of drums [which served as a stage], in far-flung schools... You could call it an outreach. He (Guerrero) wanted to show theater to townsfolk," said Ma. Esperanza Tinio-Garcellano, a UPMT alumna.

She recalled Guerrero telling them: "We should not wait for the audience to come to us. Let's go to the audience."

"UPMT performed in almost all the provinces. It was a theater that reached the grassroots," she told the INQUIRER in an interview.

For 19 years, Guerrero and the UPMT performed more than 2,500 times in the entire archipelago, according to the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

"By bringing theater to the countryside, Guerrero made it possible for students and audiences in general to experience the basic grammar of staging and acting in familiar and friendly ways," the NCCA said.

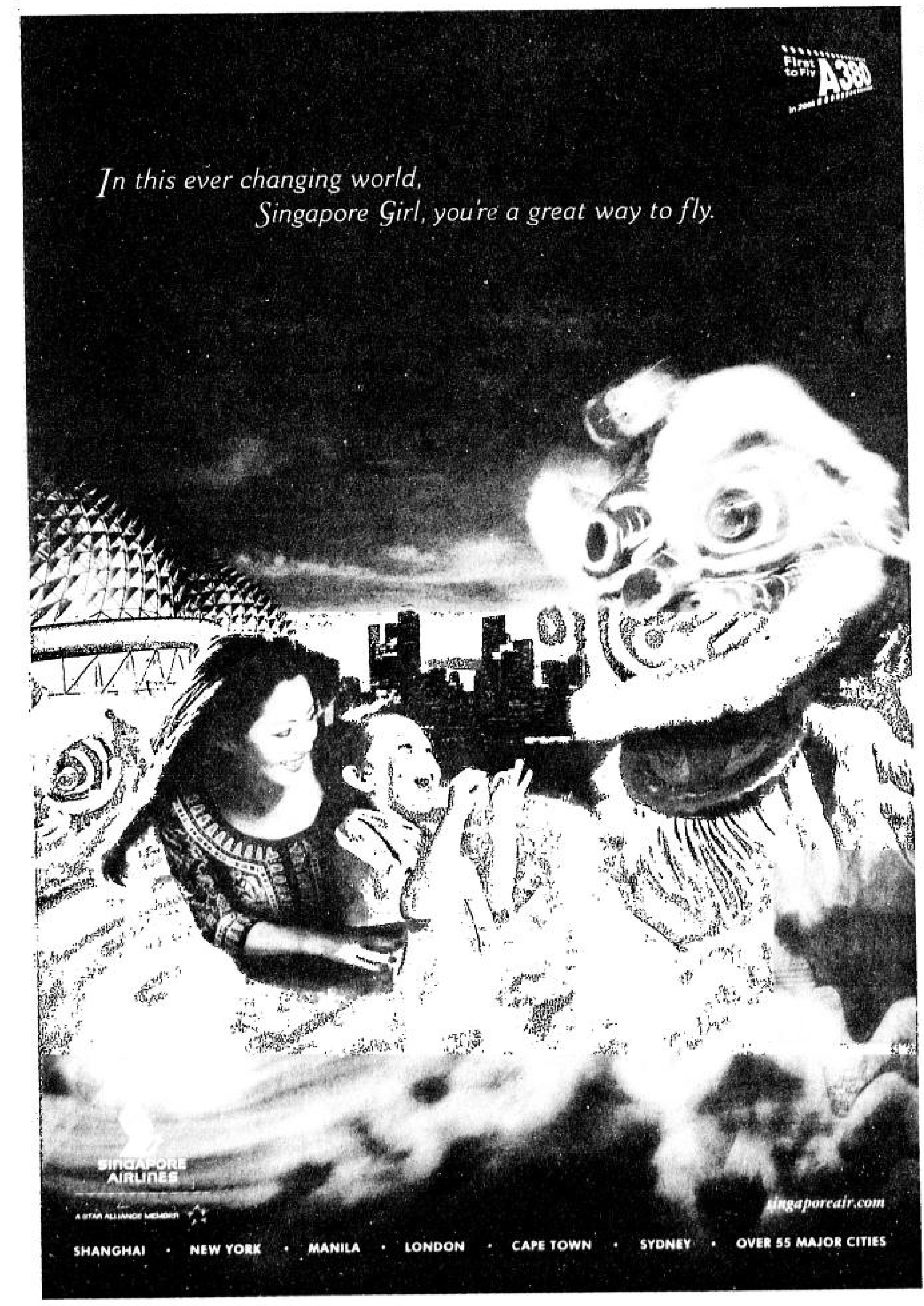
A professor at UP for 35 years, he was a teacher to some of the luminaries in theater and the performing arts, including Behn Cervantes, Celia Diaz-Laurel, Joy Virata and Joonee Gamboa.

For his contribution to the performing arts, a theater was named after Guerrero at UP's Palma Hall, the first time a living Filipino artist was accorded such an honor.

He was cited as National Artist for Theater in December 1997, two years after his death.

Until Monday night, Guerrero had lain in a donated lot at the Himlayang Pilipino, said Garcellano. The lot had been provided by former UP president Emmanuel Soriano and his wife, she said.

"We feel that it is [in the Libingan ng mga Bayani] where he truly belongs," Garcellano said.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Pinay not coached to recant, says RP envoy to Israel

By Nikko Dizon

PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL ANtonio Modena yesterday denied that the Philippine embassy had coached a Filipino nanny into recanting her alleged rape complaint against a South African diplomat.

"Have you ever heard of a Philippine embassy turning away a Filipino? We could never do that. I could not do that," an obviously piqued Modena said, calling the INQUIRER from Israel .

In a South African news report posted on www.iol.co.za, the nanny had claimed that she was told by the Philippine Embassy to recant her statement in the complaint she filed with the Israeli police.

In the contrary, Modena said that embassy consuls and labor attachés in fact urged her to file a case against diplomat Sisa Ncwana, South Africa's representative to the Palestine National Authority.

"We were very disappointed that she retracted her statement," Modena said.

According to Modena, the woman, whom he described to be in her mid-30s, reported the incident to embassy officials on Sept. 1.

The rape allegedly took place in Ncwana's official residence in Israel between February to June this year, when the woman worked as a maid in the diplomat's household.

After hearing her story, Modena said a consul accompanied the woman to the Israeli police to file a complaint against Ncwana.

But the next day, Modena said, the woman already wanted to retract her statement because "she was embarrassed" that she had been raped.

Modena said the embassy believed that the woman had a strong case against Ncwana.

However, embassy officials tried but failed to convince her to pursue the case, Modena said.

"It's a good thing our labor attaché thought of asking her to sign an affidavit stating that she voluntarily recanted her story. We have that as proof that we didn't tell her to retract her statement," Modena said.

The woman remains in Israel, but is now working as a nanny for an Israeli family.

Ncwana was recalled by Pretoria after the story broke in the South African media last week. Stories about the alleged rape had been posted on the news organizations' websites.

Modena made news earlier this month after he called Israeli immigration officials "Nazis" for their supposedly inhumane treatment of Filipinos in Israel.

Modena has since apologized, explaining that he was only defending the Filipinos when he made the remark in a media interview.

Press freedom citation elates gutsy widow

PAGADIAN CITY—THE WIDOW OF SLAIN JOURNALIST Edgar Damalerio had no idea she was one of two runners-up in the "press freedom defender category" at the awards handed out recently by the Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontieres.

"I'm happy to be nominated but is it really true?" Gemma asked.

Although she lost out to the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), Gemma said she was happy to have been cited.

"I'm thankful for that but I know I cannot be the bravest now without the support of those people who made the case successful," she said.

Gemma became a fighting widow when her husband, Edgar Damalerio, managing editor of the Zamboanga Scribe newspaper and a dxKP radio commentator was shot and killed in May 2002, the 38th journalist to be killed in the country since the 1980s.

Gemma braved threats to her life to seek justice for her husband, even going into hiding at one point when the threats became serious.

On Nov. 29, a former police officer, Guillermo Wapile, was convicted for the murder of Damalerio and sentenced to life imprisonment. *Michael F. Sarcauga, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

TUCP honors Blas Ople today

TUCP TO CONFER POSTHUmous award to Secretary Ople

The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) will confer today a posthumous award on the late Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople as part of its observance of its 30th founding anniversary, which coincides with Ople's second death anniversary.

The secretary's widow, Susana V. Ople, will receive the award in ceremonies to be held at 12:30 p.m. at the Occupational Safety and Health Center in Quezon City. The award will be presented to her by TUCP president Democrito T. Mendoza and TUCP general secretary former Sen. Ernesto Herrera.

Ople's son, incumbent Hagonoy (Bulacan) Mayor Felix "Toti" Ople, will assist Mrs. Ople in receiving the posthumous award.

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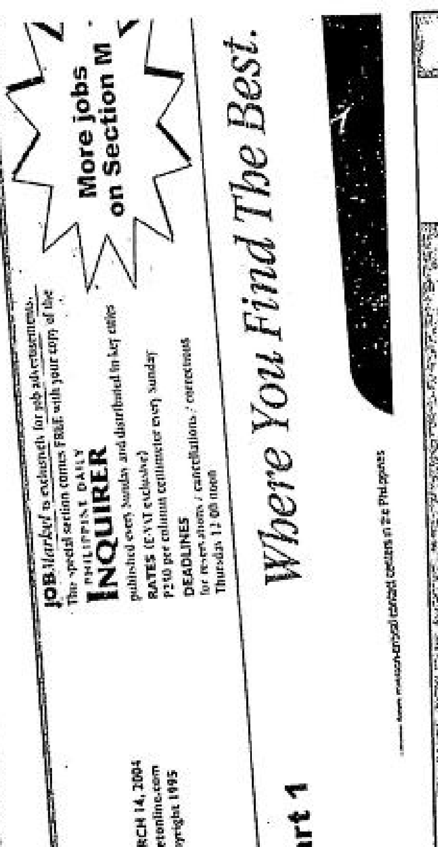

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Victims fight back; police make arrests

From page A1

"The third suspect was able to get away," Bagulay said. "A *lagaring bakal* (metal saw) was seized."

Carlos, being a minor, was sent to a center of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Alabang, while Mario was placed behind bars at the Muntinlupa police station.

"The majority of apprehended suspects are minors and scavengers," said the Asset Protection Center of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT).

Most suspects, however, get away with the crime.

The National Telecommunications Commission, which monitors the telecom industry, says the problem is a purely police matter. But it expresses concern about the rampant theft because it is disrupting service to tens of thousands of households, government offices and businesses.

To address the problem, "PLDT is working closely with police and local government authorities as well as local communities [which] would be adversely affected by cable theft," the Asset Protection Center said.

The company has put in place the Cable Watch 164 Program and the Community Partnership Program.

Project Sweeper

In Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela), PLDT and the Northern Police District have agreed to launch "Project Sweeper."

"The objective is to put up an aggressive partnership with the locality and PLDT for crime prevention, particularly wire cable theft," said Supt. Eric Reyes, NPD deputy chief for plans and operations.

In Valenzuela, the chief of police, Supt. Billy Beltran, said police patrol cars with PLDT personnel had been regularly checking on the office facilities of the company, particularly late at night or early dawn.

"But at one point we have to stop because we do not have the manpower to guard their lines 24 hours a day," Beltran said.

The NPD headquarters itself fell victim to cable wire theft in July.

Light penalty

For that episode, three suspects—all brothers—were arrested. "They were caught melting the rubber to separate the copper," said Malabon chief of police Supt. Moises Guevarra.

Guevarra and his men also arrested the owner of a junk shop in Catmon, Malabon.

Under "Project Sweeper," PLDT will be responsible for the legal aspect like filing of charges against suspects. Reyes said.

Cesar Mendoza, head of PLDT's Loss Control and Management, said the penalty for wire theft was light.

Congress has to set a higher penalty for wire theft because of the damage it causes not only to the telecom operators but also to businesses, Mendoza said.

"It will have a deterrent effect, if the penalty is higher, or if theft of telephone cables will be interpreted as economic sabotage or communications sabotage," he said.

A special law on the sabotage of vital infrastructure such as power and transportation provides higher penalties, according to Mendoza.

Those caught stealing phone cables are usually charged with theft while junk shop owners are slapped with violation of the Anti-Fencing Law. The prison term for a convicted thief depends on the value of the cable stolen.

"It [penalty] is not commensurate to the disruption suffered by the telephone companies and the community as a whole," said Eric de los Reyes, president of the Philippine Association of Private Telephone Companies.

Innove has launched its own program called "Bantay Kable" to guard against cable theft.

"This is a community-based security project mobilizing local barangay officials, community volunteers and law enforcement agencies to help monitor installed cables under their jurisdiction," said Leoncio Cantonjos, head of Innove's Customer Operations Support.

The company offers a reward to anyone who can provide information that might lead to the arrest of perpetrators.

Innove offers a tipster P20,000 to be given on staggered basis—P5,000 each for the execution of an affidavit, issuance of warrant of arrest against a suspect, appearance at a court hearing and conviction of the thief.

In July, two suspects were caught in the act of cutting Innove's copper cable on Gomezville corner Shaw Boulevard in Barangay Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City.

In Bago City, the police arrested five suspects—all minors.

Innove said a junk shop owner in Victorias City was also arrested by the police through an entrapment operation.

Fiber optics too costly

Innove has seen improvements in some areas since it started Bantay Kable, according to Cantonjos.

The telcos have been exploring a lot of options to address the growing problem. "As a preventive measure, we would have wanted to put some voltage into the wires but that is not allowed," Cantonjos said. (The diameter of phone cables ranges from that of a P1 coin (for 50 pairs of wires) to that of a P5 coin (200 pairs) and that of a saucer (2,400 pairs.)

Shifting into fiber optic technology is also out of the question because of the cost.

Fiber optics relies on light to carry signals. It does not have any copper. But the cost of using mostly fiber optic cables in the landline business would be staggering. In turn, it would raise the cost of phone service.

"At the end of the copper wire is a phone line. It is that simple. With fiber optics, you will need other equipment to convert the signal and it will be very expensive," Cantonjos said.

For now, the best option is to work with local governments and barangays.

Extreme measures

Others are resorting to extreme measures to ward off wire theft.

In Cagayan de Oro, a wire theft suspect was summarily executed

"Some time ago a dead body was found somewhere near our subdivision. It was covered with a piece of carton that bore the words: '*kawatan ko sa* telephone wires—*ayaw sunod kanako*' (I stole telephone wires—don't follow me)," said Arnold Van Vugt, a resident of Barangay Canitoan.

.In Lubao, Pampanga, a boy was shot dead by a security guard at a PLDT station.

At the Guagua municipal court, Rommel Diamsey of the Corinthians security agency, is facing homicide charges for the death of Alexander Modeon,12, of Imus, Cavite.

The boy was killed allegedly in a shootout in May 2004 when Diamsey and fellow guard Danilo Pavillion chased at least six suspected thieves on a passenger jeep.

The suspects were identified as Felicisima Modeon, Sherman Jarim, and Rosano Donayre—all of Cavite; Jonel Bibal of Olongapo City; Cesar Ramirez of Meycauyan, Bulacan; and Joel Alonzo of Balanga, Bataan.

Alonzo was tagged the mastermind.

The suspects allegedly cut off and removed the cables worth P70,000 from the PLDT Barangay Lourdes station in Lubao.

The crackdown is having an effect on buyers of stolen phone cable.

A junk shop owner in Caloocan acknowledged that lately, he was more careful when buying copper wires because authorities and telecom people have been doing the rounds.

"I heard that even junk shop operators were arrested and charged," he said, adding that sometimes he just refused to buy especially from sellers whom he did not know.

The crackdown may just instill fear into junk shop owners who buy stolen phone cables as their shops can be easily visited by authorities, but it may not deter thieves, who are high on drugs.

As the Christmas season approaches and the need for cash becomes more urgent, the cables would be more vulnerable to attacks, according to Digitel senior vice president William Pamintuan. *With a report from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Corrections

IN THE DEC. 9 issue, a front-page story—"Garci goofed, says Pichay"—misstated the congressional district that Rep. Jacinto Paras represents. Paras represents the first district of Negros Oriental—not Occidental Mindoro.

* * *

IN THE DEC. 12 issue, a commentary by Eugenia Duran-Apostol on Page A15 of the Opinion section—"Values education at every opportunity"—misstated the names of a couple who set up a children's library at the Sampaloc Site Elementary School. The couple's names are Elfren—not Efren—Cruz and Neni Sta. Romana—not Romano—Cruz.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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PRONTO AUTO SERVICES OPENS ALONG WEST SERVICE ROAD

Pronto Auto Services, a new car care shop to set a new trend in the industry, is now open to offer motorists a solution to all car care requirements. It aims to be a one-stop-shop for all auto care needs.

Located in Km. 21 West Service Road in Cupang Muntinlupa, Pronto promises to deliver value for money services a welcome news to the motoring public. Its location, right in the heart of the South, in Sucat, Parañaque makes it accessible for both clients from Makati and the South.

Pronto Auto Services is an affiliate of Budget Car & Truck Rental Philippines and are subsidiary companies under Diamond IGB Inc.

Isagani Buenaflor, president of Pronto, revealed that the idea of Pronto came about when Diamond IGB decided to open up an in-house full maintenance center for Budget's fleet management solution or Buenaflor Car Sales and Service (BCSS) which was the original name of the business when it started out. As it progressed, the BCSS operated at service levels comparative to that of the top car maintenance centers. This is when the management decided that it was time for Pronto to operate separately and to service external clients, not just that of Budget and its corporate accounts.

Buenaflor assures to offer clients an efficient and world-class service. "Pronto will break the rules in auto car care and go beyond the usual auto services. We are offering customized fleet management solution." Pronto is the first in the country to offer combined solutions for auto care.

FLEET MANAGEMENT

Fleet management is a way for clients to outsource their vehicle and transportation requirements through a service provider that has full expertise in this area. The idea is to provide clients with more time to focus on their core business.

The concept of fleet management is similar to that of supply chain management. The idea is to take out a non-core activity and outsource it to a service provider whose got the expertise on that area. Fleet management mainly encompasses vehicle outsourcing.

Apart from the operational efficiency, outsourcing of fleet management activities is also a financially sound decision because in the income statement, it is reflected as an expense and thereby lowering the taxable income unlike an outright purchase of a vehicle this is only reflected in the balance sheet.

"Our services are really dynamic. You tell us what you need and we will give you exactly what you want," Buenaflor said. "Name it, we have it," he added.

Facade of the new Auto Services Shop - Pronto

According to Buenaflor, what is even better is that we do not limit Pronto to corporate accounts. "Our doors are also open to individual drive-in customers who would want to experience our guaranteed services."

PRONTO AUTO SERVICES and BUDGET CAR & TRUCK RENTAL

Pronto Auto Services is a subsidiary of Diamond IGB, which also owns the local franchise of Budget Rent a Car. It is a spin-off from the operations of Budget Car & Rental to further improve its efficiency in delivering value added customer service to its corporate clients.

Automatically, all the car repairs and maintenance of corporate clients of Budget Philippines will be handled by Pronto. With the entrance of Pronto, the fleet management solution will also be integrated in its core business operations.

Budget Car & Truck Rental Philippines has offices in NAIA Terminal 1 and 2; Manila Peninsula Hotel in Ayala Avenue, Makati, City; Nayon Pilipino Compound in Pasay, City; Sta. Rosa, Laguna; Subic Bay in Olongapo; Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, Cebu City; and Waterfront Airport Hotel in Mactan, Cebu. Pronto will also open satellite offices in these areas soon.

Budget Philippines is the most respected car & truck rental company in the Philippines today. Budget is the world's third largest car and truck rental company.

HUSTLE FREE CAR MAINTENANCE ALL @ PRONTO

Are you tired of the hustle and bustle of going through time-consuming car repairs and maintenance? Pronto Auto Services is here to redefine how things are done by offering not just services but car care solutions.

Isagani Buenaflor, president of Pronto, said Pronto's core competence would lie on its ability to provide value-added services through its customized fleet management solution, and its dedication to safety. "We want to be known as a company that offers value for money and for our commitment to safety."

Pronto Auto Services is open to both corporate and individual drive in clients.

OUR SERVICES

Pronto Auto Services has over 3,000 square meters of floor area to accommodate the growing number of clients. Finally, no more wasted hours of waiting in long cues just to have the car fixed. Pronto have the capacity, equipment and expertise to handle all kinds of jobs comparable to that of the leading car dealerships.

The shop's technical facilities are highly modernized including its computerized paint mixer and equipment for wheel alignment. All its equipment are at par, with that of the local car dealers so clients are guaranteed of quality and safety.

The technicians are also experts in their own fields. Pronto takes pride of its technical staff who had years of training abroad. Some of them are even trained by the local car dealers.

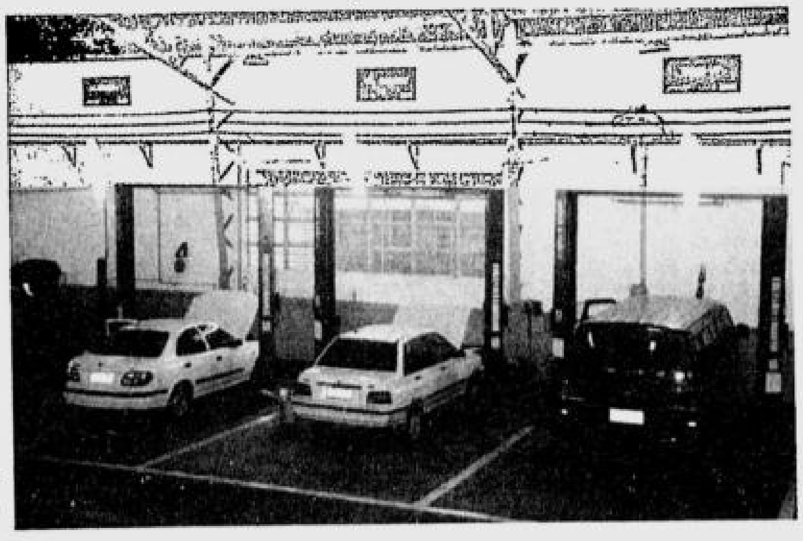
Its power-packed line of services include: wheel alignment, tire and battery checks, brake system check, change oil, tune up, light and heavy body repairs, car paint, and car detailing. As an added bonus, Pronto also offers its corporate clients a 24-hour hotline for towing service including the facilitating of insurance for car accidents. They can even provide on-site change oil and diagnostic car examinations to valued clients.

"Our goal is to be a one of kind car care shop that will offer hassle free lifestyle to its customers," said Buenaflor. "With the value added services we guarantee, clients can focus on their jobs. Leave the car with us and we can assure you the best service only Pronto can offer," he added.

Aside from that, Pronto have two fully air-conditioned waiting areas with a billiard table, TVs and top of the line magazines. These are all made available for clients to enjoy while waiting for their cars to be fixed. A conference room is also made available for clients who want to hold meetings while they are in the vicinity.

Amazingly, despite all these facilities, expert technicians, and amenities, Pronto offers a very competitive pricing scheme, which is 20% lover than that of the local care dealers and is even competitively priced with the leading repair shops.

Pronto, a Spanish word which means fast and the new auto car care shop assures the motoring public to live up to its name.



The 3,000 square meters floor area inside Pronto ready to service the motoring public.

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PCGG denies milking sequestered firms

By Alcuin Papa

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD Government yesterday protested against the insinuation that it has mismanaged the companies it sequestered and that these are being used as "milking cows" by agency officials.

"It's not true," said PCGG chair Camilo Sabio. But he could not state categorically if the companies were still "in good standing," saying that the PCGG still has to check its records.

At the Senate hearing on the PCGG's budget on Monday, Senators Joker Arroyo and Juan Ponce Enrile charged that the PCGG was mismanaging some 29 companies still under sequestration.

The PCGG was created after the Edsa people power revolution to go after the ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, his family and his cronies.

Sabio said the PCGG officials who went to the hearing "were not prepared" to give the senators the information they wanted as they only went to the Senate to defend the agency's P67.58 million budget for 2006.

"We will furnish them with copies in writing. We will clarify it with the good senators. We just have to dig up the records. We were not ready for them at that time," he said.

During the hearing, Arroyo suggested that directorships in sequestered companies were apparently reserved for favorites in the PCGG.

Sabio himself was said to be an officer of the 29 corporations. He is chair, vice chair or officer-in-charge of nine United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) subsidiaries and 20 firms affiliated with the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF).

At least 150 directorships were farmed out to favored nominees, Arroyo said.

The senator asked the PCGG for a time frame for the disposition of 119 sequestered corporations and properties, which the PCGG has said are worth around P23 billion.

Enrile said the PCGG has turned into a "commission on good corruption."

He cited in particular the UCPB and Philcomsat which he said were among the most profitable companies in the country before PCGG-appointed officials made them alleged milking cows, "earning fabulous commissions and allowances."

He said PCGG-appointed officials became rich "at the expense of the owners of the companies that [it] sequestered and refused to let go because there is too much to be stolen."

Enrile, Marcos' defense and justice secretary, is a co-defendant in the government's P51-billion ill-gotten wealth case in connection with the Philcomsat group filed by the PCGG in 1987 against him, Marcos, Imelda Marcos, Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Roberto Benedicto, Victor Africa and Manuel Nieto.

He is also a co-defendant in the P9.6-billion graft case against him, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and nine others for the illegal use of the coconut levy funds.

Luisita stock option closer to cancellation

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PREsidential Agrarian Reform Council (Parc) yesterday voted to cancel the stock distribution option (SDO) agreement of Hacienda Luisita, moving the 5,000-hectare estate owned by the family of former President Corazon Cojuangco Aquino a step closer to being placed under the agrarian reform program and redistributed to its farm workers.

The 21-member Parc Execom overwhelmingly voted to adopt the recommendations of the Department of Agrarian Reform's Task Force Luisita and the Parc's interagency task force to cancel the SDO under which the the estate's 5,000 workers had opted to take shares in the management corporation instead of outright redistribution.

"Hopefully, the Parc can adopt the Parc Execom's decision before Christmas. Only scheduling concerns are in the way of the Parc finally adopting the decision," said Atanacia Guevarra, the director of the Parc secretariat.

The meeting's records showed that only farmers' group representative Benjamin Cunanan abstained from voting.

Land Bank of the Philippines representative Victoria Reyes registered her reservations against adopting the DAR's recommendation to terminate the SDO but ultimately voted "yes."

In recommending the SDO cancellation, the DAR and the Task Force Luisita noted that after 16 years of the SDO, the lot of the farmer-beneficiaries at the hacienda had not improved. *Norman Bordadora*

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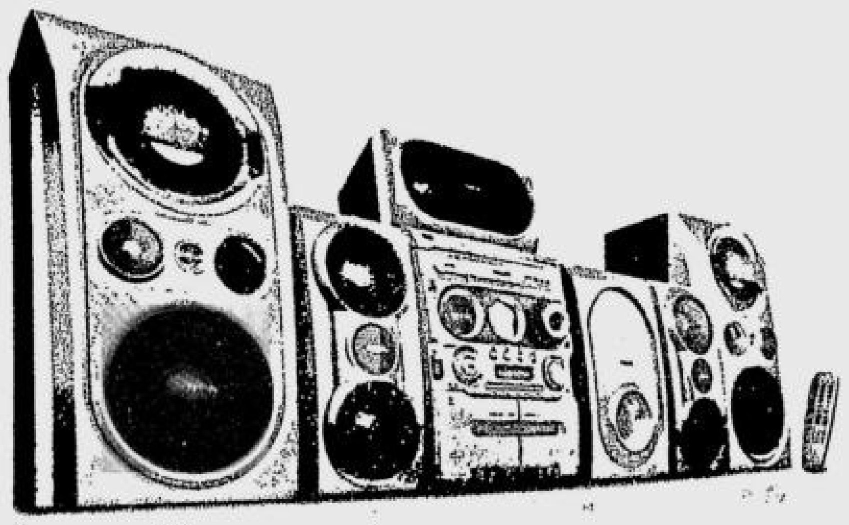

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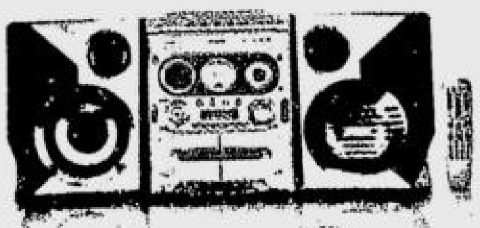

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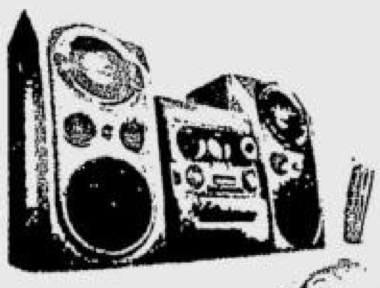

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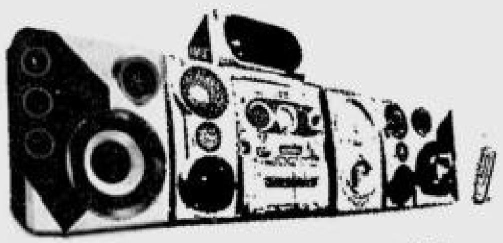

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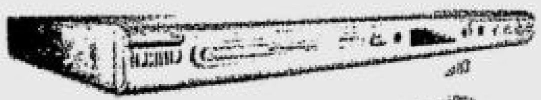

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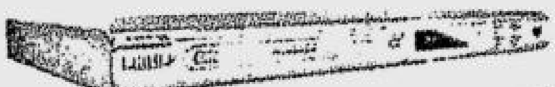

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Defense chief sees peace with MILF next year

NEW YORK—DEFENSE SECRETARY Avelino Cruz Jr. said he is confident the nation will soon finalize a peace agreement with an Islamic separatist group that has been battling the government for nearly three decades.

In an interview Monday with The Associated Press, Cruz said talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front—one of the main Islamic separatist groups in an decades-long insurgency that has resulted in up to 100,000 deaths by some estimates—were progressing.

"We have a high level of confidence that they might be concluded by the second quarter of next year," Cruz said.

The Philippines has been a focal point for the US-led global war on terrorism in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

In early 2002, the George W. Bush administration sent 650 military advisers to the Philippines to help it battle Abu Sayyaf, an Islamist separatist group which in the past has had ties to al-Qaida.

Politically sensitive

But US military involvement in the Philippines—which was a US colony from 1898 until 1946—is a politically sensitive topic.

While the US military presence in 2002 was heralded by the Philippine government as a great success in helping to train its army to battle insurgents, there were grumblings within the nation that the US was acting in a heavy-handed manner reminiscent of colonial times.

Because of that, the Bush administration withdrew its suggestion of sending combat troops to the Philippines in 2003, keeping US military involvement at a training and advising level only.

"The judgment at that time was that the alliance could be strongest with the leadership role being taken by the Philippines with our support as backup," Asa Hutchinson, who served as under secretary for the US Department of Homeland Security from 2003 to 2005, told the AP on Monday.

The importance of the US alliance with the Philippines—and other nations in the region—became apparent after the US destroyed al-Qaida's training camps in Afghanistan.

Squeeze 'em all

Shortly thereafter, terrorist training camps began popping up in Southeast Asia, as jihadists who might once have traveled to the Middle East for training were forced to stay in their home region.

For that reason, Cruz said, international cooperation is needed to battle terrorism.

"You cannot fight terrorists by yourself. You squeeze them in one part, they'll show up in another part of the world," said Cruz. "So you have to squeeze them all together to tighten the noose in every part of the region and the world."

Cruz arrived in the US on Dec. 1 to talk with US Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and other officials about ongoing US support for military reform in the Philippines.

Relations, Cruz said, have recovered since the Philippines withdrew its small contingent of troops from Iraq in 2004 to secure the release of a Filipino truck driver taken hostage.

While the global terror threat that groups in the Philippines represent is relatively small, Michael O'Hanlon, a senior fellow and Asian security expert at the Washington, D.C.-based Brookings Institution, said the cooperative work in battling the insurgents is important.

"I think it's been a deft form of diplomacy by both countries," said O'Hanlon. "It's impressive for an alliance that couldn't keep 50 Filipino peace keepers in Iraq."

O'Hanlon said that while the US model in aiding the Philippines in its fight against terrorism is not necessarily the best, it is one that is likely to be implemented in other countries that are facing limited terrorist threats.

"Generally speaking, we are going to be doing things on the scale of what we're doing in the Philippines," he said, adding that such a strategy could be used in Somalia or some Central Asian nations. *AP*

Erap likely to attend brod's wake

By Nelson F. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN WOULD LIKELY ALlow former President Joseph Estrada to attend the wake of his elder brother Antonio Ejercito in San Juan after the Philippine National Police (PNP) and state prosecutors yesterday posed no objection to his attendance.

In a two-page comment, the PNP said Estrada could stay in the wake from 7 p.m. on Thursday up to 12 noon the following day after which he would be brought back to his sprawling rest house in Tanay, Rizal where he is detained on plunder charges.

The motion, signed by Chief Supt. Edgardo Doromal, however, said that no media interview or personal visit made by other than the members of the Estrada family would be allowed.

Government prosecutors led by Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio did not pose any objection to Estrada's attendance in the wake but opposed his motion seeking a Christmas furlough.

"In keeping with the Filipino tradition, the prosecution panel won't oppose Estrada's motion subject to the condition that his movement would be limited to the site of the wake," Villa-Ignacio said.

The PNP added that Estrada would be allowed to attend the funeral mass and the interment proper but he would not be permitted to join the funeral procession.

The PNP's reply came in response to a directive issued by the Sandiganbayan Special Division after Estrada's lawyers led by former Senator Rene Saguisag filed a four-page "Urgent motion for permission to visit deceased brother and for Christmas furlough."

Saguisag said Estrada specifically asked him to file a motion so he could go and see for the last time his elder brother whose body lies in state at the Santuario de San Jose in Greenhills, San Juan.

But Villa-Ignacio stressed that the prosecution panel is opposed to Estrada's plan to stay overnight in his Polk Street residence and to join the funeral march for it would cause complications and security problems for the PNP.

The 73-year-old Ejercito passed away last Sunday at the San Juan Medical Center due to a lingering illness. He would be buried on Friday at the San Juan Municipal Cemetery.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, December 14, 2005
3rd Week of Advent

1st Reading: Is 45:6-8,18,21-25
Gospel: Luke 7:18-23

The disciples of John gave him all this news. So he called two of them and sent them to the Lord with this message, "Are you the one we are expecting, or should we wait for another?" These men came to Jesus and said, "John the Baptist sent us to ask you: Are you the one we are to expect, or should we wait for another?"

At that time Jesus healed many people of their sicknesses or diseases; he freed them from evil spirits and he gave sight to the blind. Then he answered the messengers, "Go back and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind see again, the lame walk, lepers are made clean, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the poor are given good news. Now, listen: Fortunate are those who encounter me, but not for their downfall."

Commentary

Are you the one? Go tell John what you see and hear: blind see, lame walk, lepers made clean, deaf hear, dead raised to life and the poor are given good news. That's how we know the presence of God among us. Hope runs over, life surges, forgiveness gives a new lease on life, outsiders are drawn in, and whatever is lacking is filled up and touched with grace. Tall order but every bit of peace, justice, freedom, liberation, compassion must be heralded and passed along. We walk in a dark night and yet the darkness is resplendent with the presence of the Suffering Servant who sings in our pain. John of the Cross wrote poetry with his life and sorrows and tried to reform the Carmelites and the Church—what are we doing?

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Congress sets debates on bill on contraception

By Philip C. Tubeza

BRUSHING ASIDE STRONG OPPOSITION from the Catholic Church, the House of Representatives has set for plenary debate a population management bill that promotes artificial methods of contraception and places them within reach of Filipino families.

"Far from engendering a 'culture of death,' HB 3773 will help propagate a culture of life in which every child born to this world is cherished, wanted, nurtured and loved," Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman said in his sponsorship speech Monday night.

Lagman is the principal author of House Bill 3773, which seeks to provide the public "free and full access to adequate and relevant information on reproductive health and a full range of family methods and devices."

With Lagman's formal introduction of the measure into the House's agenda, debates on the bill are expected to start in mid-January after the congressmen return from their Christmas recess, which begins this week.

Church opposition

The Catholic Church had vigorously opposed the bill, claiming that it would promote abortion and promiscuity among the youth.

The bill was supposed to be set for floor debates as early as last June, but due to the "Hello Garci" controversy and the impeachment process against President Macapagal-Arroyo, it was put in the back burner.

In October, Bukidnon Rep. JR Nereus Acosta, a proponent of the measure, said the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) might have "mellowed" its criticism of the President during the worst political crisis to hit her presidency in exchange for having the bill archived.

"It is saddening that (the bill has) become hostage to very clear interests who had opposed (reproductive health) advocacies," Acosta said then. "You can call it a collateral damage in some sense, maybe not fully. She (Ms Arroyo) wanted to get the support of the CBCP, which we believe she sought before she left for the (United Nations), and she got it," he added.

While the CBCP had largely remained "neutral" toward the President, it is expected to become more critical under the new CBCP president, Iloilo Archbishop Angel Lagdameo.

In sponsoring the bill, Lagman thanked the House's leadership for giving "credence and efficacy to the committee system despite continuing pressure to pigeonhole the bill."

Lagman dismissed Church claims that the bill would lead to the legalization of abortion or even an increase in the number of abortions.

'No abortion bill'

"House Bill 3773 is not an abortion bill, not by any stretch of the imagination," he said. "Correct and consistent contraceptive use is aimed precisely to prevent abortion by reducing the incidence of unplanned, mistimed and unwanted pregnancies – the very pregnancies which are terminated in the first place."

According to the 2003 National Demographic and Health Survey, 44.3 percent or almost half of all pregnancies in the country are unplanned. This translates to 797,400 births annually for which parents are not prepared, Lagman noted.

He said that while most Catholic countries proscribe abortion, they also vigorously promote contraceptive use.

"Likewise, the Muslim and Buddhist countries of Indonesia and Laos also promote contraceptive use yet proscribe abortion. In other words, it is not true that all countries where contraceptive use is promoted will eventually legalize abortion," he said.

Lagman also pointed out that research by the Allan Guttmacher Institute showed that contraceptives reduced abortion rates by 85 percent.

Expect no 'Merry Christmas' from immigration guys

By Leila B. Salaverria

IF IMMIGRATION PERSONNEL DON'T greet you or your friends "Merry Christmas" or "Happy New Year" at the airport, it's not because they've turned into Scrooges. They're just following orders.

Bureau of Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. has instructed all immigration supervisors at the airports to refrain from extending holiday greetings to passengers lest this be misconstrued as asking for gifts or money.

BI regulations chief Gary Mendoza said the directive was issued last week upon the request of the Immigration Officers Association of the Philippines, whose leaders told the bureau's officials that they wanted to preserve the public's positive perception of immigration officers.

The immigration officers at the country's international ports, who are under Mendoza's supervision, process the papers of all departing and arriving international passengers.

"Apparently, the Immigration Officers' Association realized that by discouraging the Christmas greeting, the reputation of their members and that of the bureau would be protected," Mendoza said in a statement.

In a phone interview, he also said the group's request was part of its attempt to instill moral values and ethics among its members since it is not right for immigration officers to be soliciting or receiving bribes.

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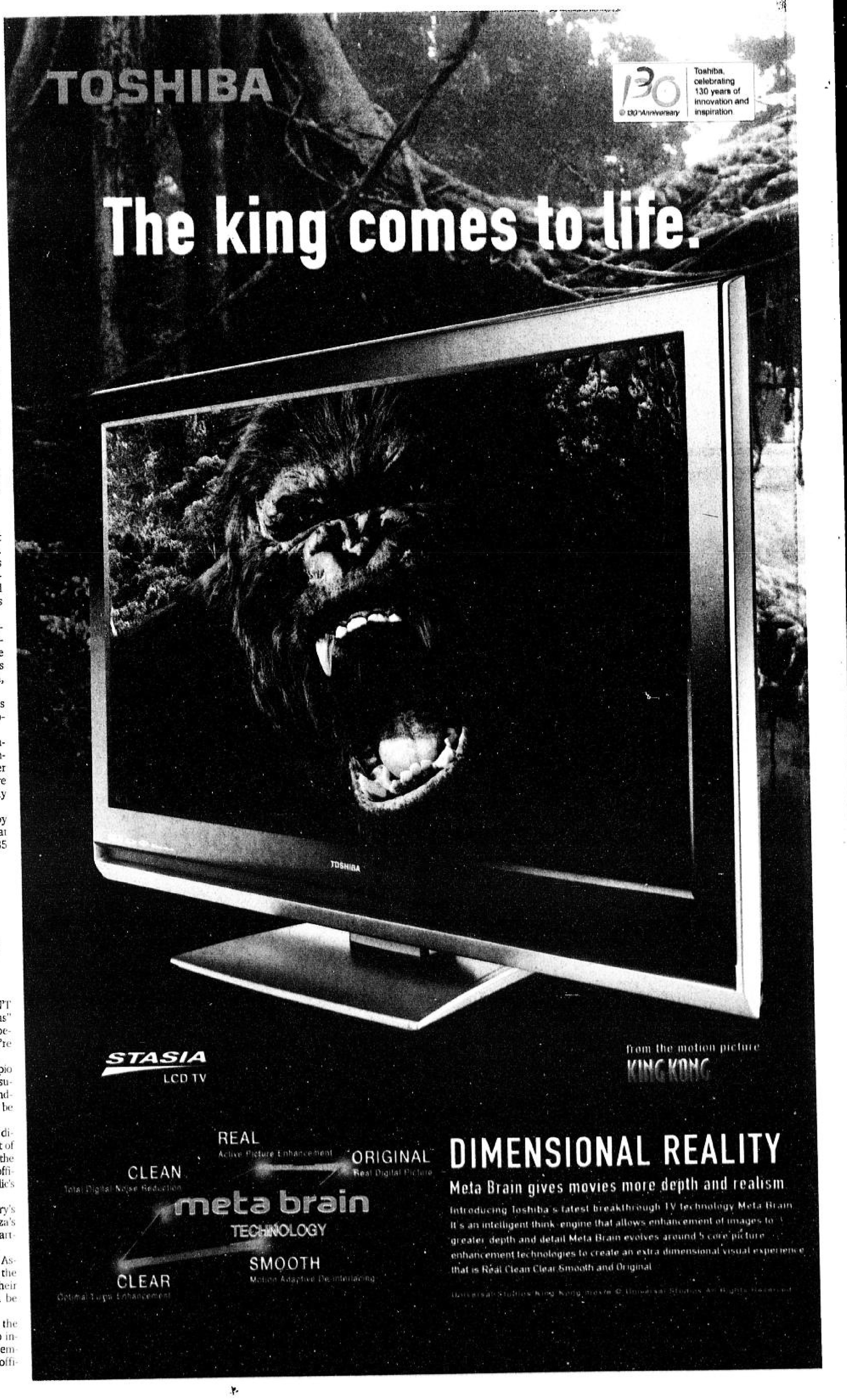

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GMA pooh-poohs coup talk: We'll have peaceful Christmas

By Christine O. Avendaño

KUALA LUMPUR (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo dismissed the latest rumors of a coup by disgruntled soldiers in Manila, saying the country will have a peaceful Yuletide season.

"I can assure you you will have a peaceful Christmas and after Christmas, even beyond Christmas," her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye yesterday told reporters here covering the 11th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit.

Bunye said the President, who returns home today, was confident of the loyalty of the military and police to the Constitution and to the chain of command.

"Any attempt at destabilization will miserably fail," he said at a news briefing at the Crowne Hotel.

The President has been haunted by a months-long drive to remove her from power, and coup rumors rose to a new crescendo in the days before her departure Sunday.

The military and police went on full alert after Ms Arroyo left for the summit. However, authorities said the alert was standard practice when the President was away and was not triggered by the rumors—which were spread through text messages.

Bunye accused "some segments" of the opposition of "peddling" the coup rumors. "This carries the hallmarks of a dying opposition that is clutching at straws," he said.

The coup rumors have been swirling since June, when vote-rigging allegations against Ms Arroyo prompted several Cabinet members to resign and key political allies and left-wing groups to call for her resignation.

Confident

She survived an impeachment attempt in September when her majority allies in the House of Representatives junked three impeachment complaints on a technicality. Opponents continue to call for her resignation and hold occasional street protests.

Ms Arroyo looked confident when she appeared before journalists at her hotel suite late Monday for a news briefing on the Asean summit. Asked how she was, she beamed and said, "Okay" and invited the journalists to pose for pictures near a window showing Kuala Lumpur's night skyline.

She did not discuss the coup rumors with reporters.

Former President Fidel Ramos, a key ally of Ms Arroyo, who is here attending the summit, shrugged off the rumors.

Critical mass

"That's nothing. Why? We're returning to Manila because the summit is ending," said Ramos, who is representing the Philippines in the Eminent Persons Group tasked with helping Asean draft its own charter.

The coup will not succeed because those behind it lack critical mass, according to the former President.

"Our people are against any coup attempts. Because who are the ones most affected? It's the people, civilians and not those involved (in launching the coup)," Ramos said in Filipino.

He noted that in past coup attempts, the coup leaders tended to hide and were not hurt by their attempts at grabbing power.

Ramos said he should know because he helped stop nine coup attempts against the administration of Corazon Aquino in the late '80s when he was her defense secretary.

"*Kaya kung sakaling mayroon man silang plano, e wala, papalpak yan* (Thus, if there are people planning a coup right now, that will fail)," he said.

The 117,000-strong military has a history of unrest and played key roles in the ouster of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and ex-President Joseph Estrada in January 2001.

Two years ago, about 300 soldiers, led by young officers, occupied the ritzy Oakwood Hotel and a nearby shopping mall in the capital's financial district and rigged the area with bombs. They surrendered peacefully after about 20 hours. *With a report from Reuters*

Senate to Comelec execs: Resign now

From page A1

ators at a budget hearing yesterday.

He said he had been under the impression that the Senate investigation was stopped because a case had already been filed against them in the Office of the Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman is about to conclude its investigation.

Comelec commissioners can be removed only by impeachment.

Cast of characters

The blue ribbon committee chaired by Sen. Joker Arroyo identified the BAC members responsible for the bidding for the counting machines as director Eduardo Mejos (chair) and directors Gideon de Guzman, Bartolomeo Sinocruz, Lamberto Llamas and the now retired Jose Balbuena (members).

It said the Comelec en banc at the time was composed of Abalos and Commissioners Rufino S.B. Javier, Luzviminda Tancangco, Ralph Lantion, Mehol Sadain, Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuazon Jr.

Tancangco and Lantion have since retired.

Commissioner Felix Brawner is not being asked to resign because he had yet to be named to his post at the time, Arroyo said.

Calls for Abalos' resignation were also aired when the supposed irregularities in the contract were first made public.

'Manipulated' bid

In the 22-page report, the blue ribbon committee echoed the Supreme Court ruling of Jan. 13, 2004, which nullified the contract and ordered the Comelec to "refrain from implementing any other contract or agreement entered into with regard to the project."

The high court had found irregularities in the bidding and awarding of the contract to Mega Pacific Consortium, and ordered the Comelec to recover the P1.05 billion already paid to the consortium.

The 19-member blue ribbon committee found that the Bids and Awards Committee had manipulated the bidding to favor the consortium.

It also held the seven commissioners, including Abalos, accountable for approving the BAC resolution and awarding the contract to the consortium.

According to the blue ribbon committee, the "remedy" was for the election commissioners who took part in the "anomalous bidding and procurement," as well as the BAC officials, "to vacate their positions so that their replacements can be appointed and thereby pave the way for renewed and earnest efforts to implement the law on automated elections."

'Archaic system'

It said that if the commissioners and BAC members did not voluntarily resign, the "most feasible way to remove them" rested with the Ombudsman and with the Solicitor General.

The blue ribbon committee said that unless the Comelec was overhauled, Republic Act No. 8436 authorizing the automation of elections would become a "dead letter law" and leave the country stuck in its "archaic system of manual voting and canvassing."

It said the mass resignation of the commissioners and BAC officials was necessary in view of the forthcoming elections in 2007, and a possible plebiscite in 2006 should moves to amend the Constitution prosper.

"In other words, since the Comelec cannot conduct a clean and honest bidding and procurement, how can it be expected to conduct clean and honest elections?" the committee said.

Equally remiss

It added: "The integrity of the Comelec has been irreparably compromised; it is a damaged institution, slouched crab-like and weighed down by this ugly and forbidding anomaly and further handcuffed by the Supreme Court's injunction."

The committee said that in recommending and approving the award of the project to the consortium, the BAC and the Comelec en banc were "equally remiss in their duties."

It said the computerization contract was awarded despite the BAC's own report that the machines had failed the technical tests of the Department of Science and Technology. This, it said, showed that the Comelec could not deliver an acceptable computerization system.

It also said that while the Comelec had awarded the project to Mega Pacific, the contract it executed was with a different entity, Mega Pacific eSolutions Inc.

"From testimonies it would appear that the BAC manipulated the eligibility requirements in order to favor a particular bidder," the committee said.

"Worse, despite having paid over P1 billion for the computerization of the elections, counting and canvassing system, the Comelec was unable to make use of any of the flawed machines delivered to it, thereby depriving the country of what was intended—the computerization of the elections," it said.

'Such a waste'

But Abalos decried the committee report, saying he and the commissioners had thought the Senate would just leave the matter to the Ombudsman.

"We felt [insulted]," he said. "How would you feel if you were in our shoes? We were all taken aback."

Abalos said the counting machines—now in storage in a rented building in Paco, Manila—should be used.

"We are maintaining them. *Sayang naman* (It would be such a waste)," he said.

Garci's plaint: Nobody believes me

From page A1

wiretapping. In his nationally televised appearance before the panel yesterday, he stuck to his denials.

"There is a growing frustration that your testimony before the committee will bring no closure to this issue. What can you say to that?" Akbayan party-list Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel asked Garcillano.

"It's hard to comment on that because I have no control over this. Whether the people believe what I'm saying to make a closure to this controversy, that is not under my control," he said.

Half-truths

Baraquel replied: "There are things that are under your control (but) you've told us many things that are, with all due respect, not true or are at best only half-truths," she said.

Garcillano agreed that he had a credibility problem, which he said he was already resigned to.

An hour into the five-hour hearing, Alagad party-list Rep. Rodante Marcolete called for an end to the proceedings, saying it was going nowhere. More than three dozen administration members of the committees did not avail themselves of their three-minute chance to grill Garcillano.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said Congress should stop questioning Garcillano. "It's like trying to squeeze blood out of a stone. It's a waste of taxpayer's money," he said.

Gonzalez said the truth could be better served if Garcillano was charged in court with perjury in connection with his denial of Singapore's diplomatic note.

"The note verbale is an impeccable document ... indubitable. And he says something different in the House under oath ... that is perjury. That is swearing falsely on a material matter," Gonzalez said.

Can't recognize audio

Rep. Clavel Martinez of Cebu succeeded in getting Garcillano's permission to allow the playing of a portion of the controversial recording.

"I can't recognize anything there," said Garcillano, who appeared unfazed by opposition threats to cite him in contempt for refusing to answer questions.

"I cannot accept that conversation. The tape was spliced," Garcillano said. He insisted that it was not yet the right time for him to confirm whether it was his voice on the tape, or even point out which portions were spliced.

He had earlier said that he could not talk about the tapes, invoking a gag rule on a petition he had filed before the Supreme Court a few days before he reappeared in public questioning the admissibility of the wiretaps as evidence.

"My honor has been seriously damaged," Garcillano said. The man who admitted last week that he had been convicted at the bar of public opinion said he was not certain that he could still redeem himself.

"I don't know if people will believe me," he said. Garcillano said this was why he released the names of 37 politicians he said he had conversations with during last year's balloting. He said he expected them to reveal what transpired during those conversations. He indicated that they were not attempts to manipulate the vote but to sort out technical problems.

Summons on Jan. 25

The hearing adjourned until Jan. 25. The panel said it would summon Commission on Elections (Comelec) Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and all his fellow Comelec commissioners, Brig. Gen. Marlu Quevedo, head of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and other Isafp officers, to give a "satisfactory" explanation about Isafp's role in the alleged wiretapping.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the opposition should concede defeat and drop its efforts to pin down Garcillano and Ms Arroyo on election fraud.

"We believe that this is an issue that we could set aside and we can move forward and we appeal to members of the opposition to admit that they have been defeated," said Bunye, who is part of Ms Arroyo's delegation to the summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Kuala Lumpur.

"It's time we moved forward so that the Philippine economy can take off," he said.

Bunye also dismissed as "wild claims" opposition allegations that it was Ms Arroyo who ordered the wiretapping of her conversations with Garcillano.

'They're entitled to their erroneous opinion," he said.

As far as the Palace was concerned, Bunye said it had already been "satisfactorily" proven that Ms Arroyo won the elections fair and square last year.

"Her victory has been reported and confirmed by various organizations that observed the elections," he said.

Chat with Mr. Arroyo denied

In his testimony yesterday, Garcillano denied talking with First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, contrary to opposition claims that the Hello Garci tapes also caught him and the President's husband talking.

"Never did I talk with the First Gentleman. That is why I do not believe that the tape you're talking about is the tape that we had a conversation about," he said.

Garcillano also said that he saw nothing wrong with talking with candidates during elections and acceding to their requests for the transfer of Comelec officials and polling stations.

"Do you find it within the bounds of decency or *delicadeza* for a commissioner to be talking to candidates in an election? Isn't that unethical?" asked Rep. Jacinto Paras of Negros Oriental.

"As a public official, I cannot deny people who are going to ask for information during those periods," Garcillano replied. "If they ask to do something like transferring of their polling places or transferring of certain election official because there seems to be bias of one or another, I cannot deny them, especially in areas where I was assigned."

Garcillano said that in all his conversations with candidates, they never talked about cheating in elections. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Armand N. Nocum and DJ Yap*

Susan: Tapes vindicate my husband

From page A1

Roces, however, said the tape merely reinforced her husband's allegations of massive cheating during the May 2004 elections.

The protest filed by her husband, which she pursued after his death, was "for the citizenry who were deprived of their right to choose their president."

But when the Supreme Court junked her petition, telling her—in a way—to move on with her life, Roces deferred to its decision.

Not troublesome

"I'm not a troublesome person. So [when they said] to move on, I moved on. I turned to affairs of the family," she said.

Roces said she was open to sitting on a committee or council that would serve as an alternative to the administration of President Arroyo.

"I don't want to speak too soon. Instantly, I'd say no, no, no, *ayoko* (I don't want to). But you know, things happen in our lives even if we don't want it," Roces said in an interview with the INQUIRER in her home in Greenhills, San Juan.

But Roces, whose husband is believed to have been cheated by Ms Arroyo in the May 2004 presidential election, maintained that only the majority, not her or the opposition, could decide on the political course of the country.

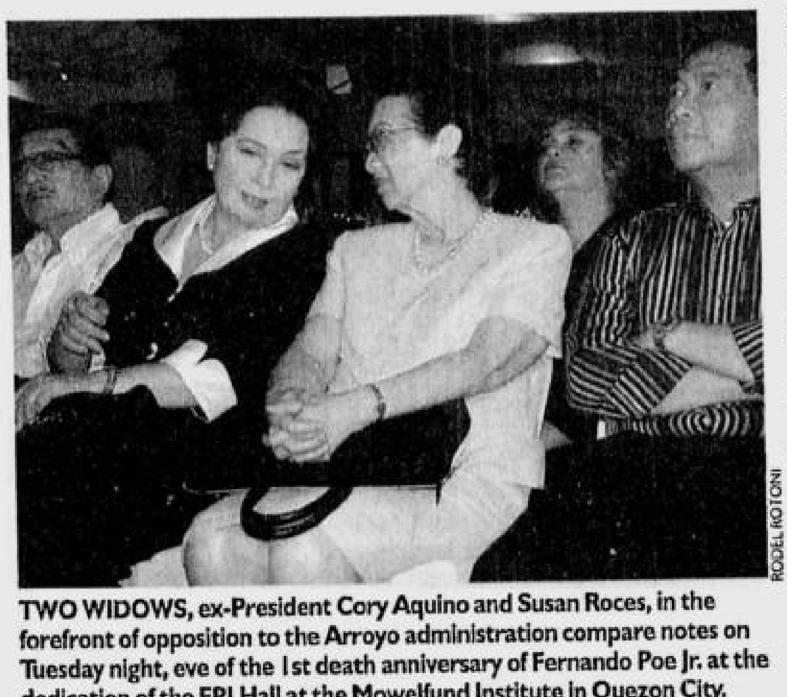
"If they (majority) can take any more of this, why can't we? On the other hand, if it reaches a point that it's too much, that you want to puke, then that's the time," she said.

Roces was back giving interviews to the media amid renewed talk of regime change, fueled mostly by the resurfacing of Virgilio Garcillano, the former election official allegedly caught in a wiretapped conversation with Ms Arroyo assuring her that she would lead Poe by one million votes.

Twice, not once

A former movie actress, Roces had stayed in the background until her husband's death thrust her into the limelight. In a speech she delivered in June, Roces accused Ms Arroyo of stealing the election "not once, but twice."

In September, Roces joined former President Corazon Aquino in a march to the House of Representatives, arriving just as pro-Arroyo congressmen were junking an impeachment complaint filed by her foes.


RODEL ROTONI

TWO WIDOWS, ex-President Cory Aquino and Susan Roces, in the forefront of opposition to the Arroyo administration compare notes on Tuesday night, eve of the 1st death anniversary of Fernando Poe Jr. at the dedication of the FPJ Hall at the Mowelfund Institute in Quezon City. Others in photo are Dolphy (left) and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

Coping with loss

For over two hours, Roces, 64, talked about her life as a widow coping with the loss of her husband of 35 years and her exposure to partisan politics. She shared her experiences as a weekend farmer, her devotion to her daughter, Mary Grace Llamanzares, and her grandchildren, nephews, nieces and in-laws who live in the Mexican-style house Poe built for her.

Last year, Roces said her husband made sure Christmas for her and the family would run smoothly. Before he suffered his fatal stroke, he had set up the Christmas lantern and lights, prepared the Christmas money envelopes for employees of FPJ Films, as well as their household staff.

Yesterday, only the lantern had been set up by Roces' nephews.

"Our [attention] is on his death anniversary. We will think about the Christmas tree afterwards," Roces said with a laugh.

"I'm not over my grief, yet," she revealed.

Keeping Poe's personal items in their appointed places has helped her cope with the situation, she said.

She kept his monogrammed towels, for instance. "Somehow, psychologically, I know that I'm not alone, that I still have a partner even in spirit," she said.

Entertaining suitors at the moment, however, "is farthest from my mind," Roces said smiling.

To mark Poe's first death anniversary, a 6 a.m. Mass will be said at his grave at the North Cemetery, followed by a 7 a.m. Mass at the Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City. The public is invited to join her and the family in these two places or to simply offer Mass for FPJ, wherever they may be.

FPJ Hall

Yesterday afternoon, Roces and Llamanzares were joined by former President Aquino, comedy legend Dolphy, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, and former Senators Tito Sotto and Ernie Maceda in the inauguration and blessing of the FPJ Hall at the Mowelfund Film Institute in Cubao, Quezon City.

The event was attended by Roces' family and friends in show biz and politics.

The hall, which was done in Poe's favorite blue color, featured FPJ memorabilia like his old movie posters, his costumes and the famous sword in the movie "Ang Panday."

In her speech, Roces thanked Mowelfund for honoring her husband's memory and his contributions to Philippine movies.

"It is a night of memories and history," she said.

She acknowledged the presence of Ms Aquino, whom she said was a longtime friend of her husband's having shot a number of his cowboy films at the Cojuangco-owned Hacienda Luisita.

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CHR reports on Luisita, Bicutan, Pasig slays due

By Norman Bordadora

THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS said yesterday it expects to issue before the end of the year its findings and recommendations on the three most sensational human rights cases it investigated this year, namely the Hacienda Luisita massacre, the Camp Bagong Diwa siege in Bicutan, and the killing of alleged carjackers in Pasig.

The commission has wrapped up its probes into the Hacienda Luisita and Bicutan killings and was now reviewing the draft resolution on these two cases, CHR Chair Purificacion Quisumbing told reporters. She said the commission was to resume hearings on the Pasig case next week.

"Hopefully, we can finish it even before the holidays, even if we have to conduct evening sessions," Quisumbing said, adding the commission was waiting for the results of an autopsy on the body of one of the three alleged carjackers killed by police in an alleged shootout in the Ortigas Center in Pasig City last Nov. 7.

Police claimed the three were killed in a shootout but a private television station's video showing police shooting two men already immobilized inside a car raised the possibility that they were executed.

Quisumbing said the cases of the Bicutan siege and the Luisita Massacre were already in for resolution.

"In fact there's already a draft resolution for review... before the year ends also," Quisumbing said.

"The two cases are different from each other and there may had been some difficulty gathering information but it is good that we were able to have videos. The media was a big help so the role of the media was really very important, otherwise, it would have been really very difficult," she added.

The Bicutan siege happened last March when detained Abu Sayyaf Group suspects took over a portion of the Camp Bagong Diwa jail. At least 25 people were killed when police stormed the prison.

The CHR looked into whether or not the police acted with the appropriate amount of force and whether the deaths of the slain inmates were justifiable.

The Hacienda Luisita massacre happened in November 2004 when police opened fire at striking farm workers and their supporters at the estate's gate in Tarlac province. At least seven people were killed.

POEA to probe aborted flight of 88 Pinoys to Iraq

By Jerome Aning

THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMployment Administration yesterday said it would investigate how 88 Filipinos nearly slipped into Iraq despite the government's ban on workers going to the strife-torn country.

"We will find out the circumstances behind the incident and may impose sanctions depending on what we learn," POEA administrator Rosalinda Baldoz told reporters.

Baldoz said the POEA was trying to determine if the workers were hired by an agency or hired directly by companies with business in Iraq.

A source in the recruitment industry, however, claimed that the Filipinos were most probably hired in the Philippines by a group of recruiters that continue to entice people in the different provinces to work in Iraq for salaries as much as P80,000 a month.

"The syndicate has been successful in deploying Filipinos to Iraq illegally using Dubai as the jump-off point," the source said.

The 88 Filipinos were held at the Dubai International Airport in the United Arab Emirates after their plane was prevented from landing in Iraq.

The workers' chartered flight returned to Dubai after air traffic controllers barred it from touching down at Baghdad International Airport because of the deployment ban, according to Vicente Cabe, labor attache in Dubai.

The Filipinos face deportation which may take some time. News agencies in UAE reported that their return to the Philippines might be delayed because most flights to Manila were fully booked because so many workers were travelling home for the Christmas season.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas earlier admitted that while agencies and employers had been ordered to desist from recruiting Filipinos for work in Iraq, the government had been unable to stop Iraq-bound workers who use other countries as jump-off points and those already in the Middle East who are directly hired by Iraq-based employers.

Lured by higher pay, thousands are believed to have defied the ban and slipped into Iraq via Jordan, Kuwait, Turkey and neighboring countries.

The Philippines implemented a ban on OFWs to Iraq after Filipino truck driver Angelo dela Cruz was abducted by Iraqi insurgents in July 2004. Manila agreed to the kidnappers' demand that the Philippine mission to Iraq be pulled out, sparking a diplomatic ruckus with the United States and Australia.

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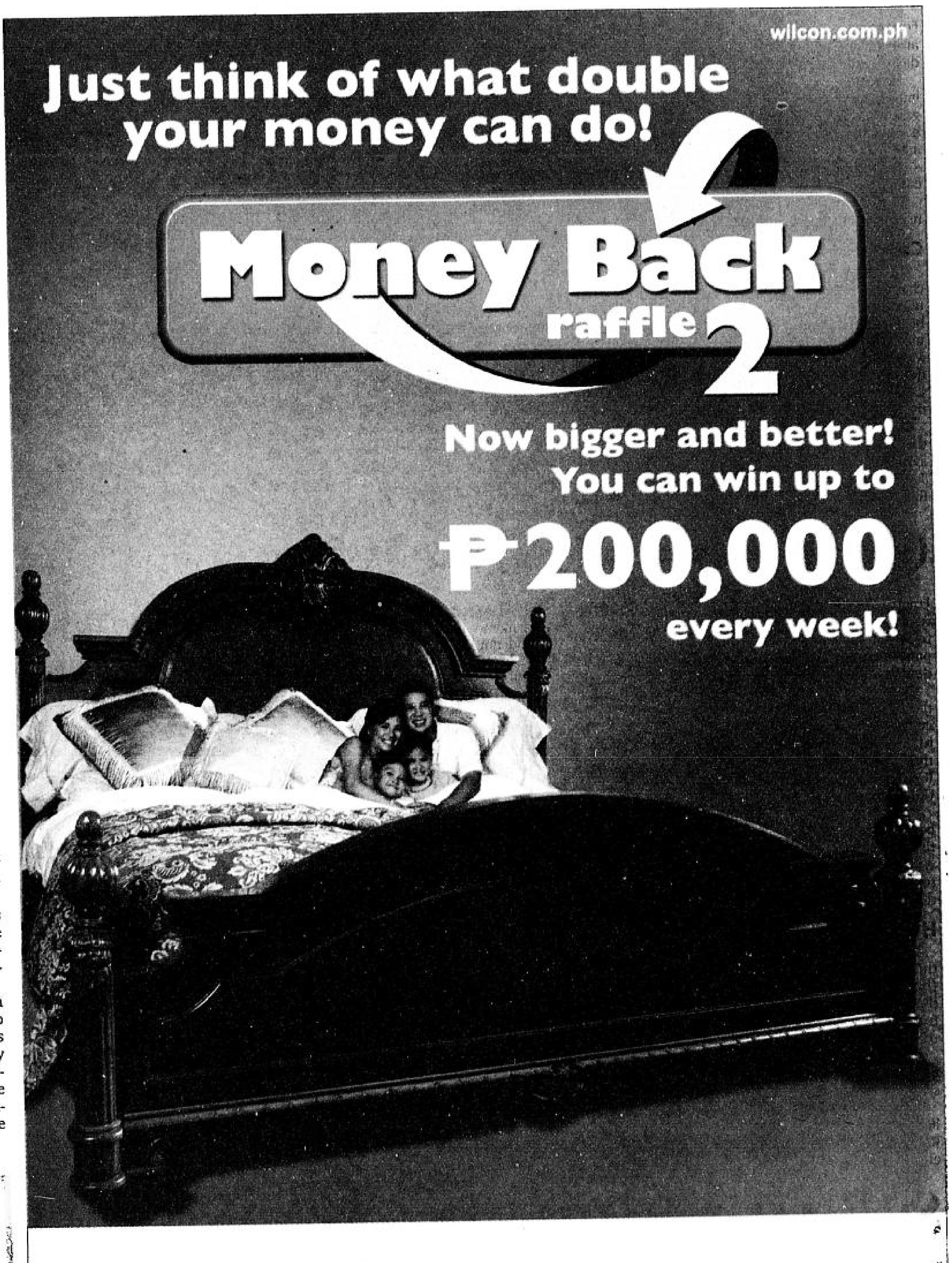

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Protests greet WTO talks in Hong Kong

HONG KONG—THOUSANDS OF ANTI-GLOBALIZATION activists marched through Hong Kong Tuesday watched by a huge security operation aimed at preventing a repeat of violence that has rocked previous WTO meetings.

Demonstrators from international unions, non-government organizations and political parties chanted slogans and waved colorful banners as they took to the streets in a protest coinciding with the start of the World Trade Organization's ministerial meeting.

Under banners that read "WTO Go to Hell," "Junk the WTO" and "Fair Trade For All" some protesters are calling for the dissolution of the world body while others want the talks to pay more heed to the poor.

Mock coffins were a popular choice of prop for many, including a group of Indonesian migrant workers who carried one inscribed with the words "WTO Rest in Pieces."

A European contingent hauled a huge poster of US President George Bush that bore the slogan "World's Number One Terrorist." Flags were carried identifying the nationality of other protesters from Britain, the United States, Belgium and Poland, among others.

Although the crowd that poured out of Victoria Park, in the busy Causeway Bay shopping district, was in buoyant mood, police were braced for trouble following intelligence reports that radical activists were planning to storm the summit barricades.

Knots of heavily armed police patrolled the march route, which took protesters past some of the most expensive real estate in Hong Kong as well as luxury car dealerships.

Further lines of police and three-meter tall water-filled barricades enforced a 1.5 km exclusion zone around the venue of the WTO meeting.

Stores within the vicinity of the march route were also boarded up in anticipation of violence that marred protests at WTO meetings in the US city of Seattle in 1999 and in Cancun, Mexico, in 2003.

Much of the media's focus was on some 1,500 militant South Korean farmers who Monday vowed to step up so-far peaceful demonstrations, even warning they had not ruled out suicide.

At least two Korean farmers have publicly killed themselves during international gatherings to protest against proposed reductions to Korean farm subsidies they say will put rice farmers out of work.

Jung Jiyoung, spokesperson for the delegation, said the Koreans were upset at being demonized.

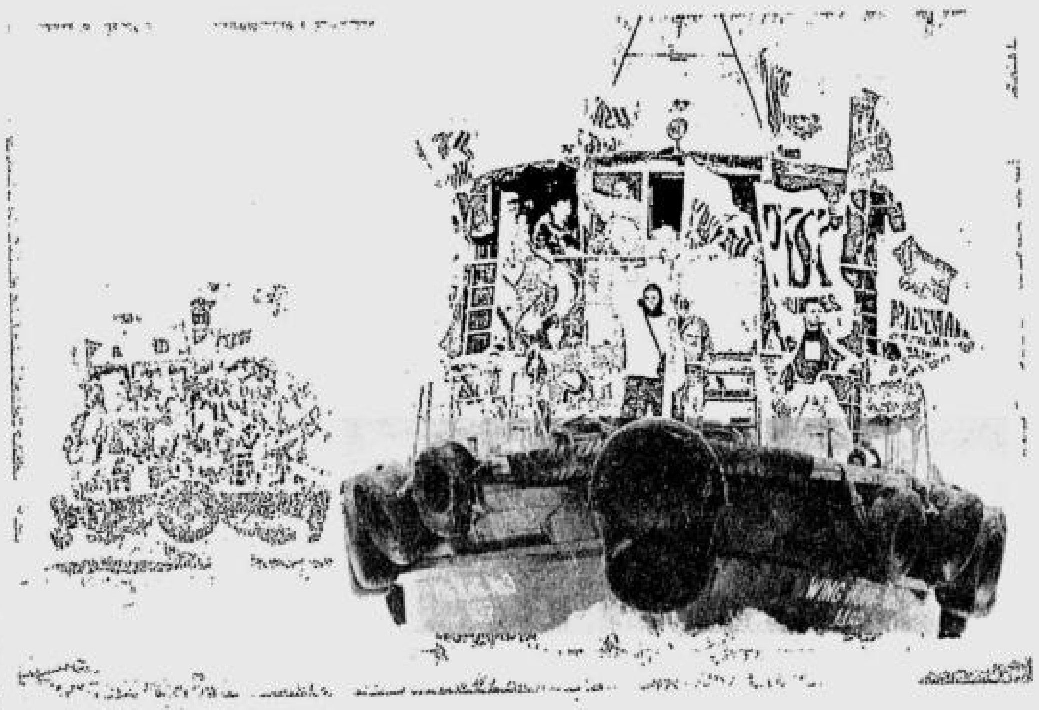
"We have repeatedly said we will hold a protest rally according to the principle of non-violence and peace," Jung told AFP.

"But few seem to believe it here. We will stick to the principle of non-violence and peace in our street demonstrations." The Koreans began the day's protest with a lively three-hour rally in which they called for the collapse of the WTO.

They were joined by other protesters as they paid homage at a makeshift altar to Lee Keong-hae, a farmer activist leader who committed suicide at the WTO meeting in Cancun.

Earlier, Filipino fishermen staged a fishing-boat protest on the city's famous harbor. Two crew men leapt into the cold and polluted waters holding flags demanding the WTO help Asian fishing communities.

AFP



FISHERMEN from various Asian groups chant slogans as they cross the Hong Kong harbor on boats to join a protest rally against the World Trade Organization in Hong Kong on Tuesday. AP

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Asean members demand action from Burma

KUALA LUMPUR—SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS took aim at Burma (Myanmar) in their annual summit Monday, demanding real steps towards democracy and the release of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) bloc is grappling with a host of issues at the two-day talks including bird flu, high oil prices and the rising economic power of China and India.

But Burma's refusal to embrace reforms or free Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest has dominated discussions among the group, which won agreement to send an envoy to the isolated military-run state.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar, who will represent the bloc on a mission to Burma "to learn first-hand" whether it is making steps towards democracy, said the region demanded action from the ruling generals.

"I think the leaders were very clear that there must be some movement and it should not be seen as mere words," he told reporters.

"We have decided at our meetings that one of the most important things under the reconciliation process is the release of those in detention. We want to see them doing something." Syed Hamid said however that they remained committed to continuing to engage with the pariah state, effectively ruling out calls for it to be expelled from Asean.

"We believe in the policy of engagement, no matter how difficult it is. If we are to isolate Burma, what would it do to its people?" he asked.

Thai Foreign Minister Kantathi Suphamongkhon said he hoped the mission would be a step towards securing the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, who has spent 10 of the last 16 years in detention.

"We all want to see Aung San Suu Kyi freed," he told reporters.

The UN special envoy to Myanmar, Razali Ismail, who has been blocked from visiting for nearly two years, welcomed the move and said Asean was "getting more and more worried" about the situation in the reclusive nation.

"Myanmar has promised to make some reforms, so the envoy can go and see what steps they have taken," he told AFP. "The envoy can make a request to meet Aung San Suu Kyi." In discussions Monday on a first-ever charter for Asean, diplomats also pushed for tougher language on how member countries conduct their affairs, in what officials said was a move aimed at Burma.

"The charter would govern everyone but the Myanmar issue was the trigger," a Southeast Asian official said.

The Asean group—Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam—has sometimes been criticized as being a mere talking shop without real clout in the region.

AFP

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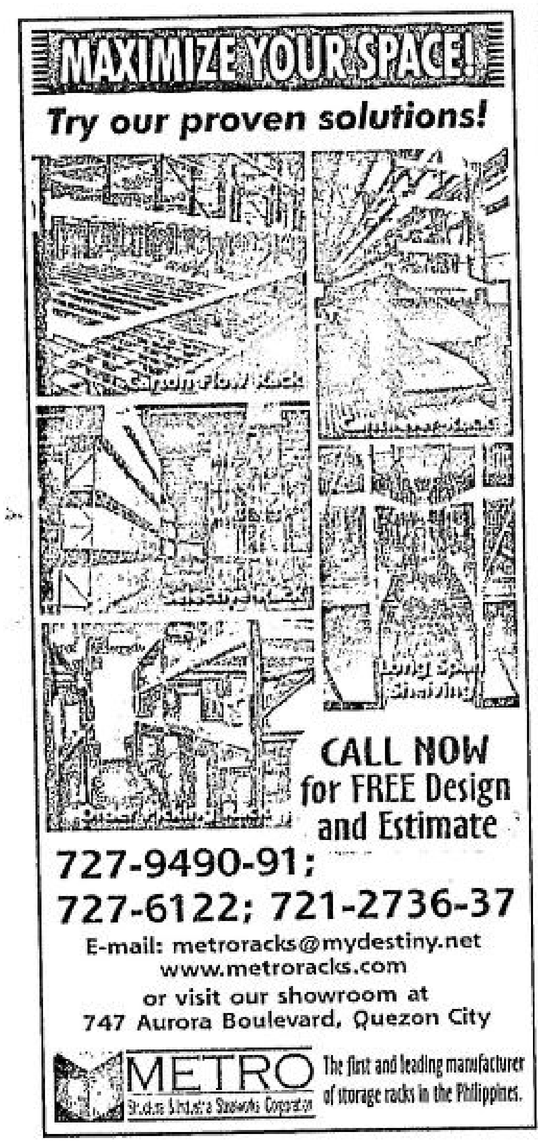
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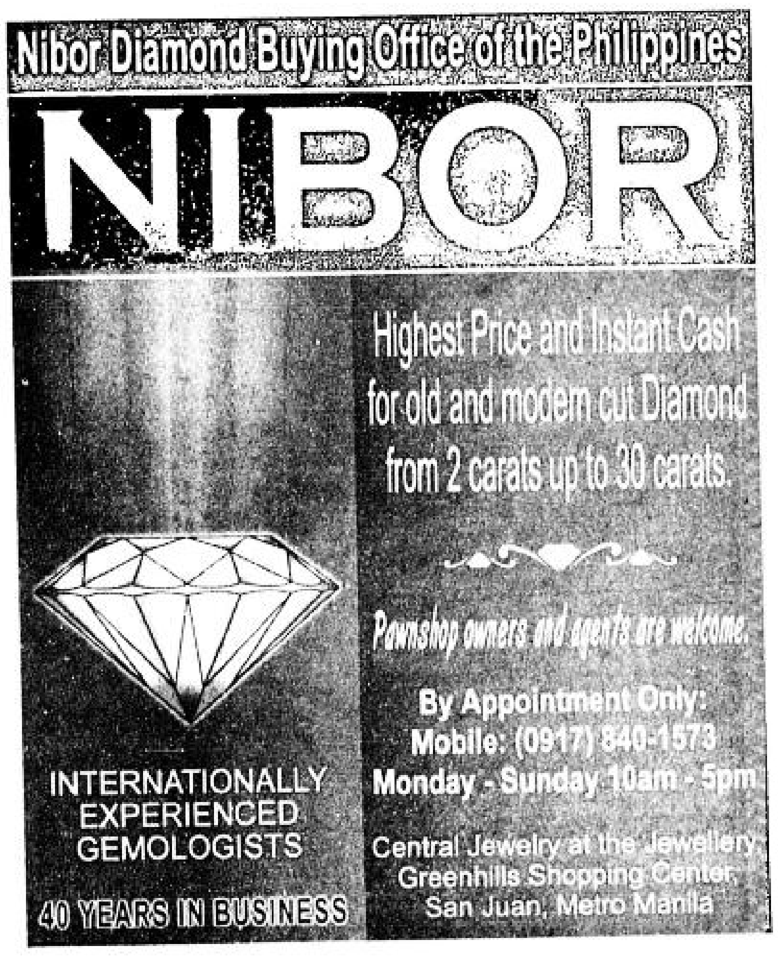
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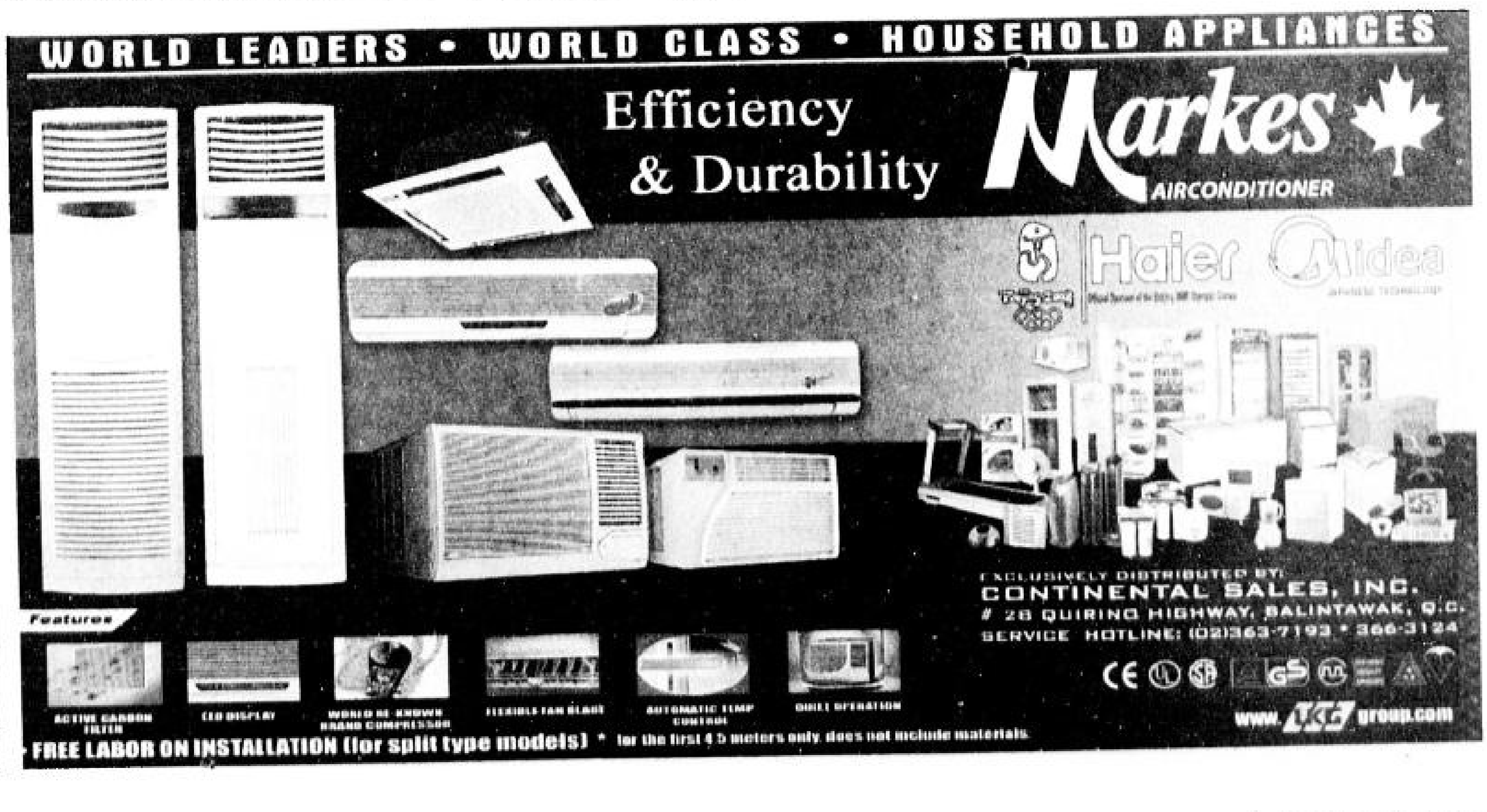
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British firefighters race to put out blaze

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, ENGLAND—Firefighters battling Europe's biggest peacetime inferno, at a major fuel depot northwest of London, were toiling overnight after being forced to pull back on Monday for fear that another fuel tank might blow up.

Two days after huge pre-dawn explosions Sunday at the Buncefield depot sent dark smoke billowing over southeast England and drifting towards France, firefighters had extinguished flames at 12 out of 20 burning storage tanks, using a "blanket" of foam and water, fire officials said.

They delayed their work Monday in order to satisfy concerns they would not cause pollution to ground water around the depot near Hemel Hempstead, 40 km from the British capital.

More than 150 firefighters fought the blaze until the afternoon before they suspended work over fears that one burning tank contained volatile substances and could explode, Hertfordshire Chief Fire Officer Roy Wilsher said.

However, Wilsher was relieved with "better than expected" progress after having warned earlier that his crews were in "unchartered territory" as Britain and its European neighbors had never dealt with such a massive inferno before.

The job was all the harder as firefighters had to contend with swirling winds, he added.

Late Monday, however, a police spokesperson said: "Fire crews received aerial imagery of the site which indicated where it was safe to resume operations. This work is likely to continue overnight." The inferno—which left 43 people injured but, astonishingly, no fatalities—is expected to take some 72 hours to burn itself out.

It appears to have started accidentally, although the cause remains unknown and clues as to what might have caused it were likely to be consumed in the inferno, police said.

As well as environmental concerns, fire chiefs had to wait for around 250,000 liters of foam concentrate to be sent from around the country before beginning the mammoth task of tackling the blaze.

Some 25,000 liters of water per minute were being pumped from the nearby Grand Union Canal to be mixed with the concentrate, the Hertfordshire fire service said.

Fears were growing over the toxic nature of the smoke cloud, estimated to be some 230 km wide.

Meteorologists said the smoke "would almost certainly go over to France when the breeze picks up". Doctors warned that the elderly or asthma sufferers could be affected by dust and soot particles, especially near the fire.

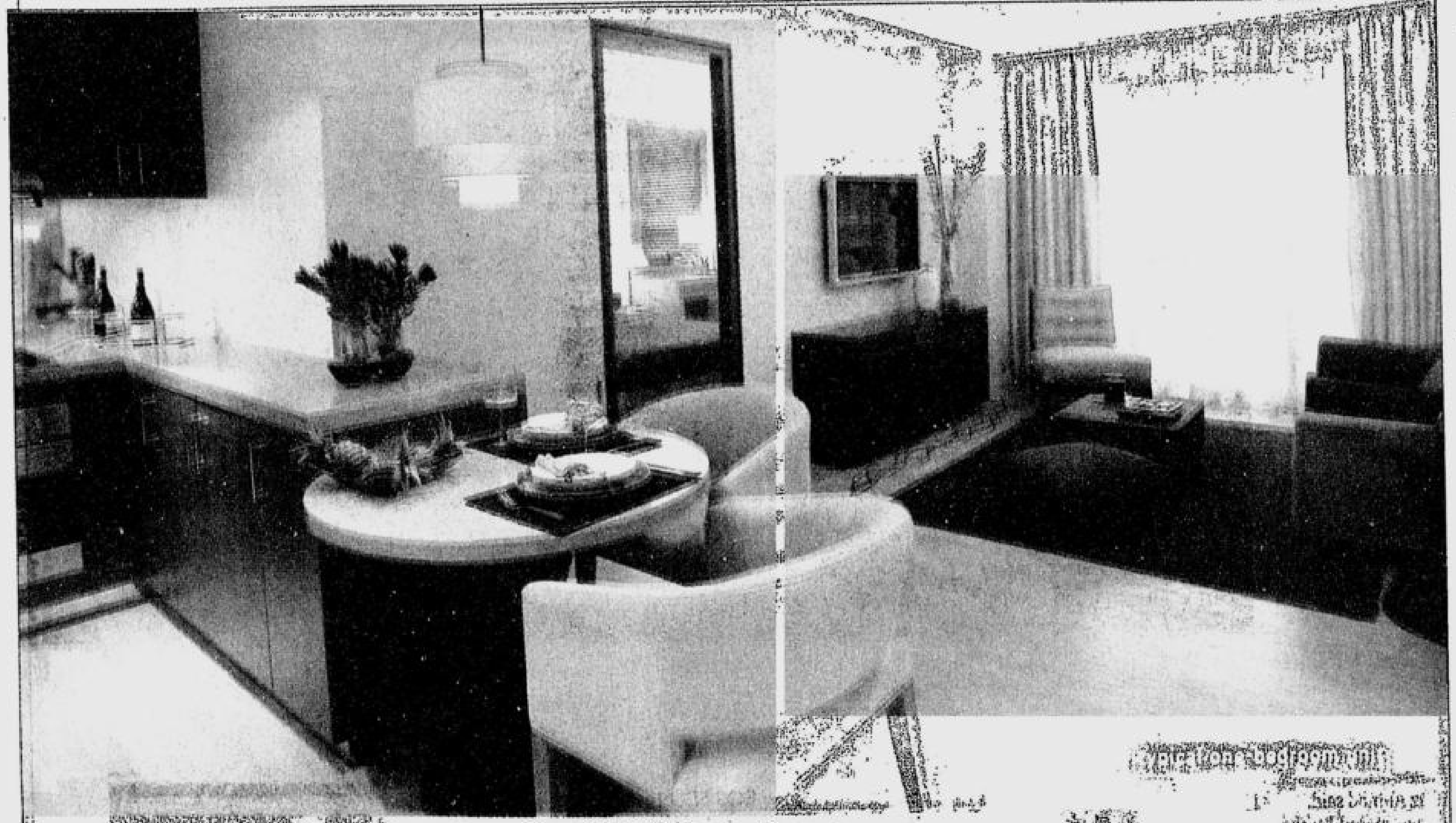
Witnesses who saw the first blasts described them in apocalyptic terms, with one likening the scene to "doomsday". A series of explosions tore sections of walls off buildings in an industrial park, smashed windows and dented doors of homes, ripped tiles from house roofs, burned trees and incinerated at least half a dozen cars over a wide area.

The fire caused widespread traffic disruption including closing down sections of the M1 motorway, a main artery north from London.

The depot, jointly run by French oil company Total and Texaco, part of US oil giant Chevron Corporation, was able to to store up to 150,000 tons of fuel, which was distributed to airports in the London area.

Only seven tanks at the depot had remained intact, with firefighters spending the last day cooling them with water to prevent them from exploding. AFP

FLAMES rise from one of the fuel tanks at the Buncefiel



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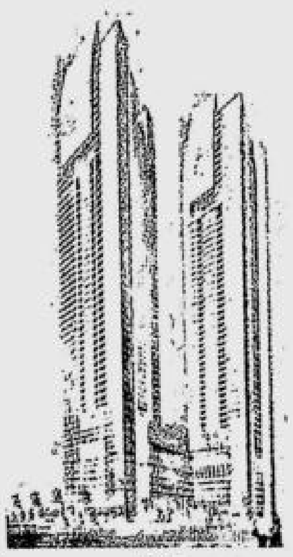

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UN bares new ev vs Syria in Hariri

UNITED NATIONS—A UN REPORT DElivered to the Security Council Monday cited new evidence further implicating senior Syrian officers in the murder of Lebanese ex-premier Rafiq Hariri and raised doubts about Syrian cooperation in the probe.

The report was turned over to the council's 15 members and made public a day after UN chief investigator Detlev Mehlis presented his findings to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

It followed the release of a previous interim report by the Mehlis team in October which had found evidence that senior Syrian and Lebanese security officials were implicated in the murder of Hariri in Beirut last February.

Damascus insists it has been falsely accused of orchestrating the killing and has pledged to cooperate fully with the UN enquiry panel.

"In late October 2005, the commission was approached by another new witness, who has submitted a comprehensive and coherent statement regarding plans to assassinate Mr. Hariri," the latest report said. "The witness has been assessed to be credible and the information he has submitted t

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Sydney hit by 2nd nig violence:7 hurt, cars

SYDNEY—A SECOND NIGHT OF UNrest in Australia's biggest city Sydney left seven people injured and dozens of cars damaged in apparent reprisal for racial violence on a city beach at the weekend, police said on Tuesday.

Gangs of youths, mainly Muslim and from Middle East backgrounds, attacked several people with baseball bats, vandalized cars and had running skirmishes with police, they said.

At one beach, Maroubra, police said they found 30 Molotov cocktails and crates of rocks stockpiled on rooftops along the beach's main road.

"Eleven men were arrested and seven people, including a police officer, were injured in a second night of unrest," police said on Tuesday.

Racial violence erupted at Sydney's Cronulla Beach on Sunday when some 5,000 people, some yelling racist chants, attacked yo ground.

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Up to 25 to Cronull damage car said.

Morocco digs up mass grave, angers rights group

CASABLANCA, MOROCCO—Moroccan authorities have unearthed a mass grave holding the remains of up to 100 people killed 24 years ago in anti-government riots and reburied them, angering relatives and rights activists.

The excavation of the grave, part of a drive to lift the lid on past rights abuses, and the reburial of the remains in individual graves may have tampered with evidence needed to sue those who carried out the killings, families and activists said on Monday.

Witnesses and rights activists said the authorities dug up the mass grave at Casablanca's main fire station on Saturday night and reburied the remains in separate graves on a nearby lot.

Reports of the operation appeared in newspapers on Monday.

Families and journalists were not allowed to visit the site of the mass grave and the new tombs.

The dead were among some 1,000 people kille anti-government riots Casablanca on June 1981, when riot police f into a crowd protes against food price rises, cording to human ri groups.

"Move out here! We not want people here the parents of the dead come here and make t ble," a plainclothes pol man told a reporter tried to scale a wall to the mass grave and nearby plot where the graves were dug.

"About 100 bodies found and reburied," a curity source near the sc told Reuters. Other sour including rights activ put the number of dea between 80 and 100.

At the time, the gove ment put the death tol 66. Human rights gro said the government bu the dead in at least se mass graves scatte across the city of five lion people, includin one unearthed at the station.

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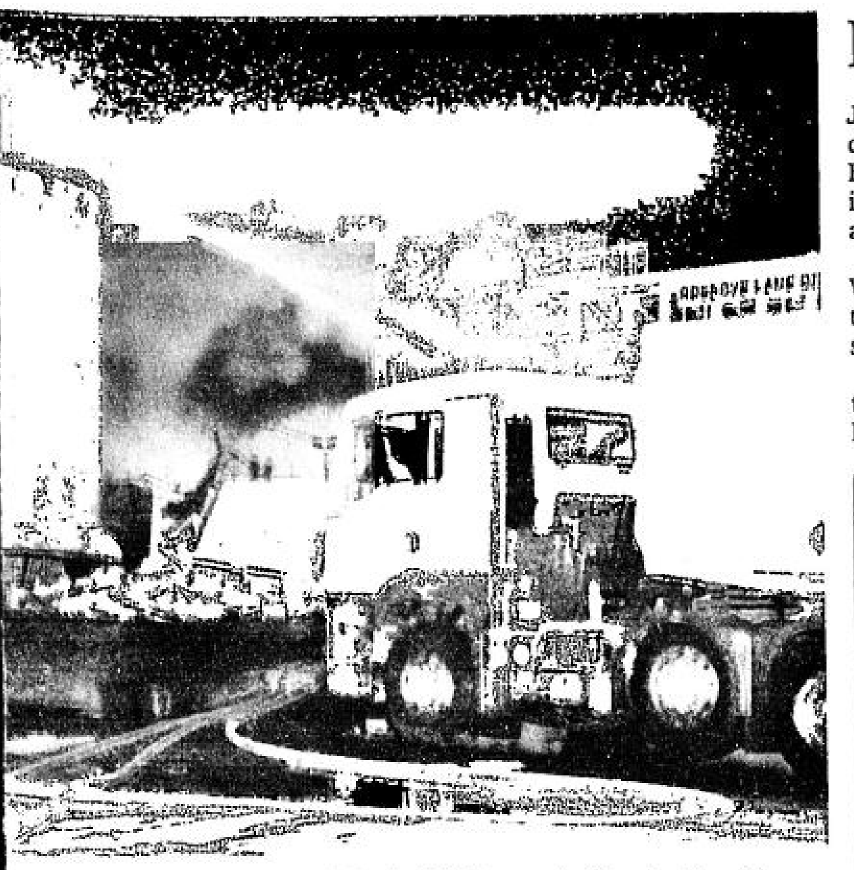

l oil depot in Hemel Hempstead, England, 40 km north of London Dec. 12. AP

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on Tueni's slaying. *AFP*

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Indonesia confirms 9th bird flu death

JAKARTA—INDONESIA'S NINTH HUMAN death from bird flu has been confirmed, senior Health Ministry officials said on Tuesday, taking the global death toll from the disease to 71, all in Asia.

A Hong Kong laboratory affiliated with the World Health Organization had confirmed that a man had died from the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu.

"We have received confirmation. (The death toll) is now nine," Hariadi Wibisono told Reuters about the findings on a 35-year-old man who died last month, making him the latest confirmed death in Indonesia.

Another senior health ministry official told Reuters the man lived in West Jakarta where he had contact with live chickens that carried the H5N1 virus. "He was building his house and around it there were many chickens and birds running around. Researchers tested those birds and they were positive" carriers of H5N1, said I Nyoman Kandun, director general of disease control at the health ministry. *Reuters*

Strong quake triggers panic in South Asia

ISLAMABAD—A STRONG TREMOR TRIGgered panic Tuesday among survivors of October's earthquake disaster in South Asia, forcing people out of temporary shelters and into the freezing Himalayan winter.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or major damage after the 6.7-magnitude quake struck at 2:48 am (2148 GMT Monday) with an epicenter in the remote Hindu Kush mountains of northeastern Afghanistan.

Witnesses said it felt like the strongest tremor since the 7.6-magnitude earthquake on October 8 that killed more than 73,000 people in Pakistan alone.

That quake also left around 3.5 million people homeless, mainly in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir and parts of the North West Frontier Province.

In Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani Kashmir, many survivors of the Oct. 8 quake rushed from their tents and from houses still left standing by the original disaster.

"It was very strong. People came out of their tents and started screaming and reciting verses from the Koran," resident Sarfraz Ahmad said.

"The people living in buildings spared by the big quake were the most terrified," he added.

"Now everyone is getting back into their shelters. They are reluctant, but they have no choice because the cold is unbearable." Panic-stricken residents were anxiously telephoning relatives and friends to check on their safety.

"Our men are surveying positions in remote villages but there are no casualties so far," said a police spokesperson in Srinagar, the summer capital of Indian Kashmir, where over 1,300 people were killed in the October 8 disaster.

Haleema Akhter said that seven members of her family had braved the freezing winter cold for 30 minutes after the temblor shook them from their beds.

"Thanks be to Allah that all my relatives are safe," she said.

"It was only after my two little children started shivering in cold that we decided to go back," she said.

Mosques in Indian-administered Kashmir were busier on Tuesday than usual, residents said.

"I went to the mosque to pray to Allah for forgiveness," said Zulfikar Sheikh, 43.

"We've definitely done some wrong! That's why this is happening again and again," he said, adding that the quake had widened the cracks in his house created by Oct. 8's massive earthquake. *AFP*

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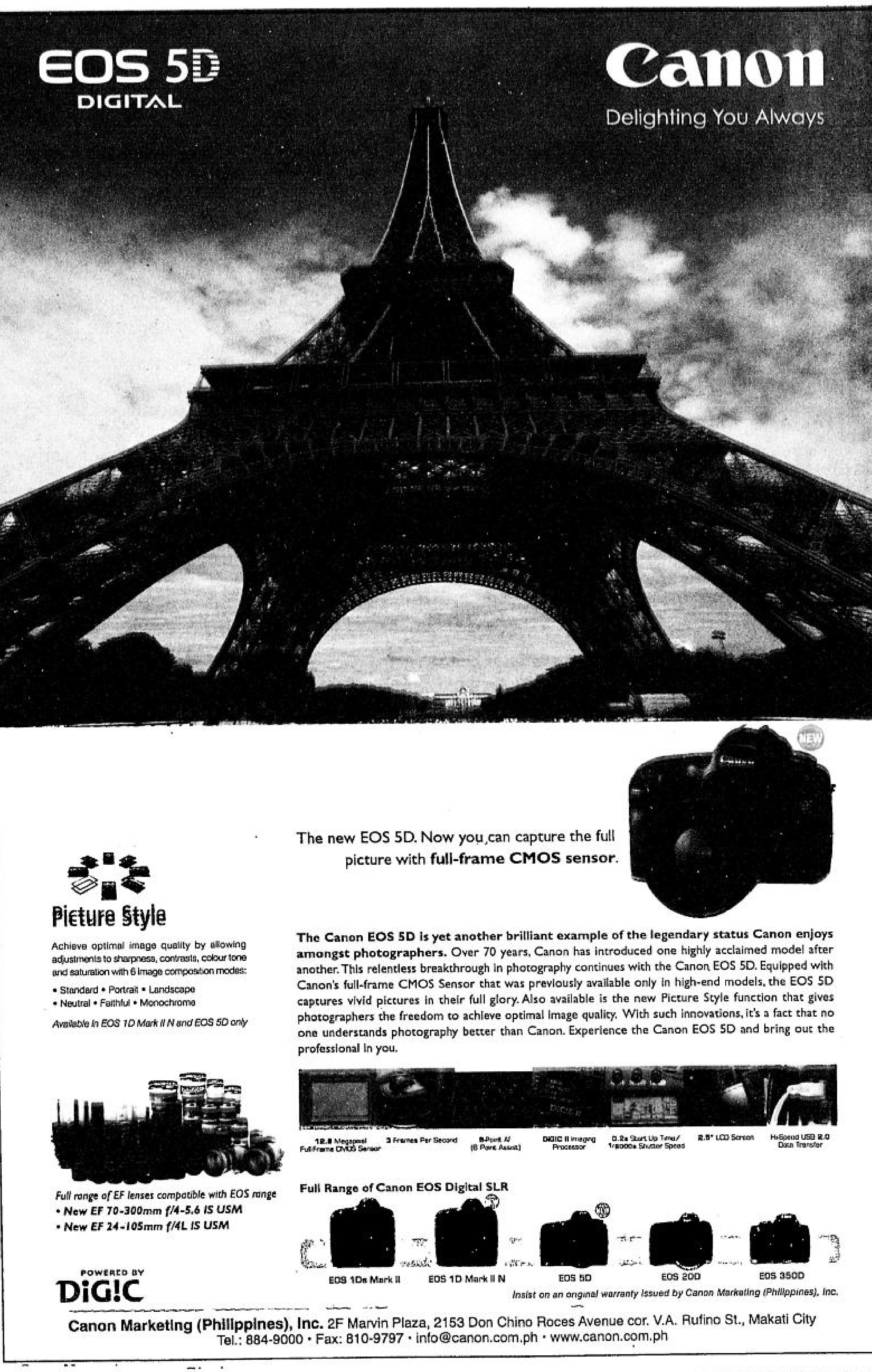

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OPINION

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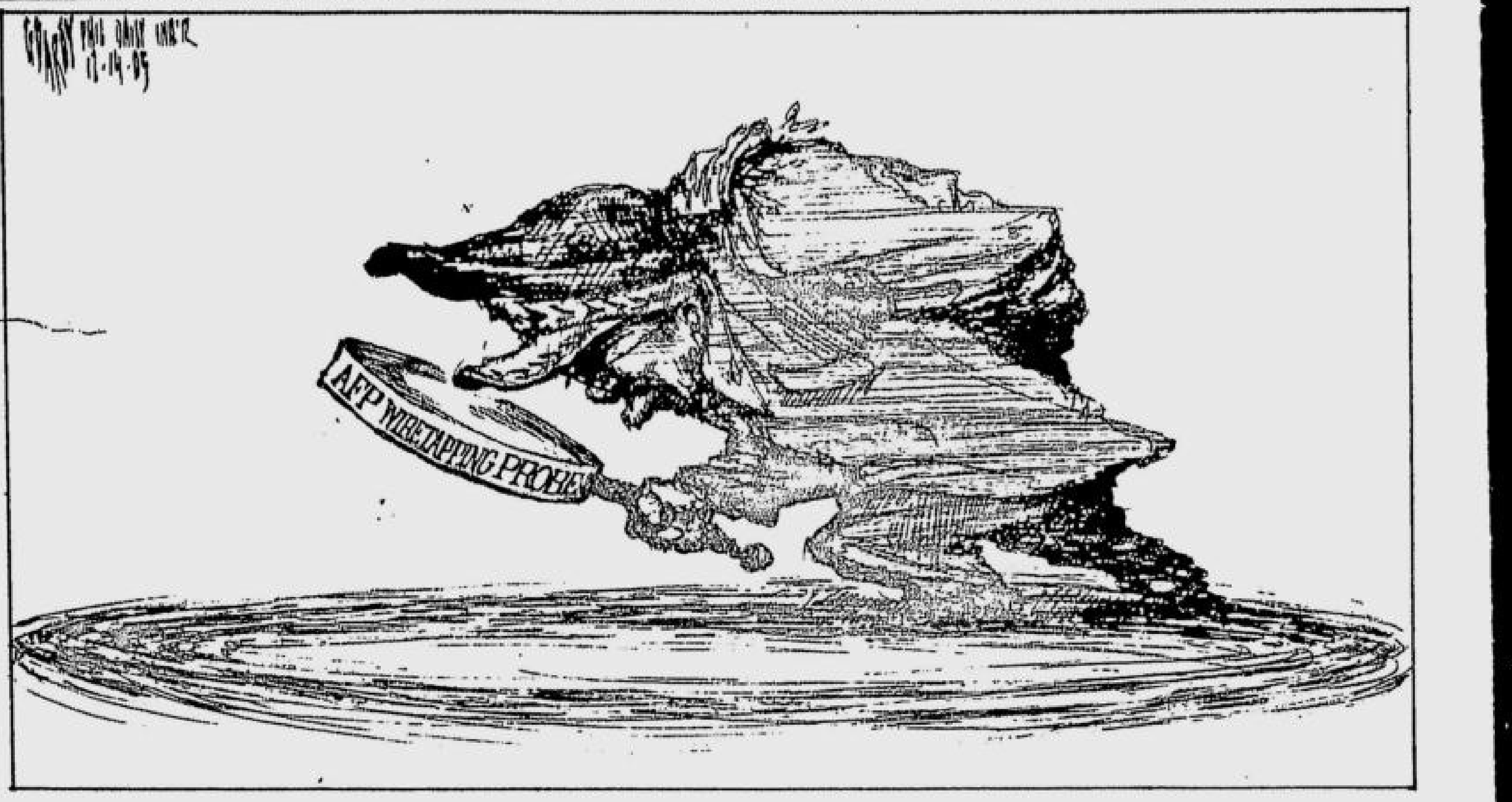


Praetorian guards

EDITORIAL

IN ANCIENT ROME, THE EMPEROR'S BODYGUARDS became so powerful they named and deposed Caesars at will. Wherever there is a military, there exists the temptation for soldiers to interfere in politics and to become praetorian guards. It is only when civilian supremacy is assured by being asserted that it can stay supreme. We only have to recall the contempt with which putschists greeted then President Fidel V. Ramos' punishment of 30 sit-ups to recognize where weakness leads: straight to the next coup attempt.

The Senate is correct in investigating the role of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the current political crisis. Since the existence of the "Hello, Garci" tape was first exposed, questions have emerged about the Isafp's role in it, and none of them has been resolved. Instead, what has emerged is a picture of an administration that is not only obsessed with the Armed Forces, but which is, to a certain extent, held hostage by a mortal terror of it. The result has been an administration playing fast and free with military appointments, while at the same time refusing to let other branches of government or the public to peer into its increasingly mysterious—and confusing—military policies.

No one has to be reminded that a president shouldn't confuse being commander in chief of the Armed Forces with being a kind of shogun in command of a private army. Our constitutional set-up precisely requires officers above a certain rank to be vetted by the Commission of Appointments of Congress, which also exercises the power of the purse over the Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces. What we are seeing, however, is an administration that has built a legal wall around itself, permitting only an occasional, and grudgingly allowed, glimpse of what's going on behind those walls.

When the Senate asked for the testimony of a number of military officers concerning Isafp and allegations that President Macapagal-Arroyo's conversations were tapped, the officers did not show up. Executive Order 464, issued by the President, was invoked. The Executive Department then went on to say that anyway military officers could submit to congressional questioning before the Commission on Appointments. In the absence of court decision to the contrary, the President's order may be presumed to be legal and constitutional. But what is legal and constitutional is not necessarily what is right.

Now the Armed Forces is claiming that it has been investigating matters all along. But what that investigation has yielded, if anything, has not been revealed. Col. Tristan Kison, AFP spokesperson, further said the findings wouldn't necessarily be made public because, after all, the investigation is an internal one. The problem with the secretive instincts of the Armed Forces is that the investigation has become part of a larger public issue.

The issue, as far as the AFP is concerned, is whether the President had her conversations tapped, and who did the tapping. Investigations by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism and Newsbreak magazine suggest that Isafp did the tapping, upon the instigation of various groups, including one group, which according to Newsbreak, included the President's brother, Diosdado Macapagal Jr., and Ruben Cesar C. Reyes, a businessman who is said to be close to some top military officers. The Senate has been given testimony by Marietta Santos, a girlfriend of T/Sgt. Vidal Doble, that she saw the equipment used and had free access to where Isafp agents held office and did their work.

In any other country, allegations of such a serious and stunning breach of national security, involving no less than the tapping of the communications of the head of state, would have shaken the military establishment to its very foundations. That is not happening here. Instead, the Armed Forces and the President seem to have entered into a partnership to stonewall all efforts to obtain answers. This, in itself, serves to underline the importance of Congress' oversight powers and of its inquiries. There are times when the presidency and the military need to be saved from themselves.

An opposition plan to replace GMA

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

FIRST GENTLEMAN MIKE ARROYO CALLED a press conference last Monday to reply to our column last Dec. 12, which questioned the wisdom of taking almost 200 athletes (not only 125 as earlier reported) on a three-day junket to Hong Kong Disneyland, all expenses paid, instead of taking them to tourist spots in the Philippines. I said there are more beautiful places to see in the Philippines than in Hong Kong and that it is an insult to the Department of Tourism's campaign to attract tourists when it cannot attract its own countrymen, led by the nation's First Gentleman no less, to visit our own tourist attractions. Whatever happened to our slogan to "See the Philippines first?" I asked. *Sayang naman ang* efforts *ng* DOT. It spent a fortune in Filipino taxpayers' money to advertise the Philippines in London and other countries. And how will our economy improve if our own First Gentleman, who should set the example for the rest of our countrymen, would spend precious dollars abroad rather than here?

If it is only to make the athletes enjoy the rides in Disneyland, I said we have our own Enchanted Kingdom which is world-class and can compare favorably with the best theme parks in the world. Is the Philippines not good enough for our First Gentleman? the column's title asked. Is that an indication of how he feels about how his wife is running the country? I asked myself.

At the press conference, his lawyer and spokesperson Jess Santos (who, by the way, is a good friend of many years and is also my lawyer) said that the trip to HK Disneyland was a promise made by Mr. Arroyo before the SEA Games, and he wants to keep his promise. (Is this an unintended reference to his wife's promises?)

My answer is: Why did he make that stupid promise in the first place? That's still his fault. Besides, aren't patriotism and the local economy good enough reasons to break the promise and take the Filipino athletes on an extended tour of the Philippines instead? After all, his wife breaks promises for flimsy reasons. And doesn't she always cite the economy when asking the opposition to unite behind her?

Santos said that not a single peso of government money would be spent for the trip. All expenses will be paid by FG's foundation.

Maybe so, but that's still scarce foreign exchange to be wasted on a whimsy. And that money was contributed by business firms that could have used it to improve the lives of their employees. And as I understand it, the athletes would rather have the cash promised to them.

There is no Disneyland here, Santos also said.

But as I said, we have Enchanted Kingdom which is just as good as Disneyland. It is owned and operated by Filipinos and capitalized with Philippine pesos. And the income they earn is not taken out of the Philippines but spent right here to make our economy grow.

What I'm driving at is that we should promote our own tourism, not that of other countries. If Mr. Arroyo were somebody else, the faux pas may not attract so much attention. But he is the First Gentleman and he should set the example for others to follow, especially other public officials who rush out of the country at every opportunity and spend the people's taxes in foreign tourist spots while we beg for foreign tourists to come here. Here was a golden opportunity for him to show his patriotism and common sense, not least to our athletes, and he muffed it.

Everybody makes mistakes. It is not shameful to admit that one made a mistake. What is shameful is to deny it and insist on going through with it.

***

President Macapagal-Arroyo is a record-breaker. She now goes down in the Guinness Book of World Records as "the most unpopular president in the world ever." A minus 30 popularity rating is hard to beat. Not even Hitler got that low. Marcos' lowest rating was a plus 7. Erap, at the time he was deposed, rated even higher. But Ate Glue's rating is -30. That should give her an idea of how much she is disliked by the people.

But why can't she be deposed by people power, like Marcos and Erap? Well, one reason is that she has a thicker hide, and has practically glued herself to her seat in Malacañang. That is why she was christened "Ate Glue." The other reason is that her constitutional successor, Vice President Noli de Castro, does not seem to be a better choice, as Cory Aquino and GMA then were.

That is why the opposition has put in place a plan to find an alternative leader. Sen. Jinggoy Estrada passed us the result of the opposition's labors to put in place "a system of governance designed for systemic changes and radical reforms to ensure lasting solutions to our ills." This is what they propose to do:

"1. Set in place a transition government headed by a popular leader (you know who they mean), as only a popular leader can effect unpopular decisions needed to make drastic and positive changes in the system.

"2. This leader will be supported by a nine-man council representing the major sectors of society. These nine, including the leader, shall be banned from seeking public office for life.

"3. The council will be the policy-making body, assisted by a credible Cabinet who will be responsible for implementing the policies made by the council.

"4. During the transition, Congress will be abolished, the judiciary, the Ombudsman, the Comelec and other constitutional bodies will be revamped. The bureaucracy has to be cleansed fast and the private sector's values reformed."

(To be continued.)

Apathy

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

I WAS NOT ONE OF THOSE WHO GOT THE text message last weekend telling people to stay in their houses because something was afoot. I was busy attending Christmas parties, an existential hazard in this country at this time of year. I only learned about it when I saw Rodolfo Biazon Monday night on TV talking about it. He said he was informed by his sources that there were troop movements in some parts of Luzon, and indeed that a small convoy of trucks filled with soldiers was spotted rumbling at Edsa itself. Whether that was true or not, Biazon said, he hadn't as yet verified. But he meant to do that over the next few days.

Well, what astonishes me about all this is not that some groups in the military might actually be plotting to overthrow the government. Or such as it may still be called government: we haven't had one since July, and all governance has ground to a halt. What astonishes me about all this is the lack of public interest in it. No one seems to pay it any mind, no one seems to care.

Can it be because it is Christmas season and Filipinos will not allow their Christmas to be stopped by hell, high water, or coup? It is possible. In my recollection, the only significant political event that took place in December was the RAM coup attempt of Dec. 1, 1989, the last and most serious challenge posed to Cory Aquino by that group. I remember that well because it was the eve of my daughter Miranda's birthday. Camp Bagong Diwa used to stand where the Department of Education branch in Pagasa now is, and the neighborhood was blanketed in darkness at one point. We lit candles that night, which served the dual purpose of being both necessary and celebratory.

Things do wind down in December, and I wouldn't be surprised if a great deal of the lack of interest in talks of coup, not to speak of attempts to carry them out, owed to the so-called "Christmas spirit." By contrast, things do crank up after Christmas. The First Quarter Storm blew its furious winds after Christmas—in the first three months of 1970. Not quite incidentally over charges also that Marcos carried out the dirtiest elections ever, employing guns, goons and gold to unparalleled heights, or depths. And there was no doubt he won the elections then. The first Edsa happened in February 1986, preceded by snap elections the month before. The second Edsa happened just after the Christmas season, a couple of weeks into the new year.

What can I say? Filipinos are in a bad mood after Christmas. It's a tossup on which one contributes to it more, the lack of money or the abundance of hangover. But the sheer length and intensity of the festivities almost guarantee the upheavals that follow. Beware the Ides of March? Beware the tides of January!

But I don't know that the same pattern will hold today. For one thing, I don't know that the public inattentiveness or indifference to the threats of a coup owe completely to the widespread anticipation of Christmas. The current listlessness is humongous and is spreading over everything. If activism spread like a prairie fire in but a few years since the First Quarter Storm, apathy has spread like a virulent disease in but a few months since the Second Quarter Theft of the elections last year. It's not just that we do not particularly care anymore about instances of evil (we more or less dismissed Garci's barefaced lying last week), it's that we do not particularly care anymore about instances of good.

The most patent example of that is our victory at the Southeast Asian Games. I know this country isn't particularly riveted to any sports other than basketball and boxing, but one would imagine that after four decades of hogging the cellar, the national pride would be near to bursting over the feat we achieved a couple of weeks ago. But except for the First Couple desperately trying to whip up a frenzy over it, nothing. Maybe it was because the First Couple were doing so, which persuaded people to believe, or suspect, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin might have a point about cheating. But easily Manny Pacquiao's conquest of his foe and Precious Lara Quigaman winning Miss International some months ago created more stir.

In fact, the same public apathy that has allowed GMA to stay may be the same public apathy that will allow GMA to go. The only really effective barrier to a coup is not a strong army of loyalists, it is a strong public resistance to it. In the end, what broke that back of the coups of the 1980s was not Cory's capability to crush them, it was the public's unwillingness to accept them. The newspapers put the public attitude into words when they came out with a pooled editorial saying no to an illegitimate government and yes to democracy.

That is not so easy to say today when the very legitimacy of the current government is at stake. The GMA government has survived to this day by simply arguing that the alternative is no better. But that argument is double-edged: It also means that the GMA government is no better than the alternative. That cannot bring a horde into the streets to come to its defense in its hour of need when it comes. Particularly since in the mind of the public all that the coup will be wrecking is just another coup, one wrought not with guns but with Garci. Not too many Filipinos will prefer the second to the first.

Apathy, like a little learning, is a dangerous thing. The public attitude that says "So what?" to the idea that GMA cheated in the last elections could be the same public attitude that says "So what?" to the prospect of her going under in the next insurrection. I know it's not a very Christmas-y thought, but there is at least Biblical wisdom to commend it:

As ye sow, so shall ye reap.

A nightmare that won't go away

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

AS THE YEAR COMES TO A CLOSE, THE ADMINistration of President Macapagal-Arroyo has been given a public satisfaction rating that she would rather forget—a closure of bad news, so to speak.

The year 2005 has not been the best year of her presidency since 2001 and, more importantly, since her election to the presidency in May 2004. The situation now is worse than it was in May 2001, when she crushed the first violent challenge to the transfer of power after the fall of President Joseph Estrada, with the storming of Malacañang by furious mobs enraged by the arrest order issued against Estrada to face trial on plunder charges.

The past year was at best a nightmare. It was a year when the Garcillano tape scandal broke out. Half a year after the scandal erupted in June, the administration is struggling not only to survive the radioactive fallout but to leave it behind.

The parting shot for 2005 came from public opinion surveys (probably the last before the Christmas holidays) showing that the President's satisfaction rating has continued to fall and there seems to be no prospect of reversal in the new year.

The Social Weather Stations survey, conducted from Nov. 27 to Dec. 4, does not allow the President and the nation to have an optimistic outlook or to find relief from political turmoil. The survey does not allow us to forget that we have been through the worst of times since the overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship. The best that the administration can expect is that the downward trajectory of its popularity would spend itself the same way the bubonic plague spent itself in the 14th century, though not before killing a quarter of Europe's population.

According to the survey, the President's net satisfaction rating on her performance tumbled to negative 30 percent in the last quarter of the year, her second lowest rating after the negative 33 percent she received in the second quarter. This makes Ms Arroyo the most unpopular president in the post-Marcos era. She has had seven quarters of negative ratings since she became president in 2001, making previous presidents look good at their worst ratings: President Aquino at 7 percent; President Ramos, 1 percent, and Estrada, 5 percent.

Ms Arroyo's popularity began its free fall in the third quarter of 2004, just after she was proclaimed the winner in the 2004 elections, when the nation was supposed to be in a euphoric mood after a period of political renewal. The plunge has been blamed on dissatisfaction over spiraling global oil prices that fueled the rise of prices of basic commodities and services, especially public transport—in other words, an economy-related explanation.

Regime opponents have blamed the unprecedented decline of the President's performance ratings on questions about the administration's legitimacy arising from the alleged rigging of the election results.

This political explanation is insufficient and implies that the decline is irreversible and that the only way to turn things around is for the President to resign. But since the President is determined to resist the pressure for resignation, the political stalemate has hardened. Still it's hard to say what the President can do to reverse the decline, unless there is closure to the tapes scandal.

There is not even a sign of a truce from political hostilities in the coming holidays. After six months of combat over the tapes, I can detect a creeping weariness over the scandal that has acquired a pernicious life of its own. The administration desperately wants closure and the public seems exhausted and fed up with the protracted congressional investigations that have become open-ended especially after the appearance of Virgilio Garcillano at the hearings. His testimony has not brought the case closer to the truth or produced new evidence to back allegations that the President had rigged the election with his collusion.

A few things have resulted from the hearings. First, Garcillano has testified that 30 or so senators and congressmen had talked to him about election issues. With most of the people he mentioned issuing denials and disclaimers, there is nothing clear about the nature of their conversations. But based on this testimony, it appears that the President is taking revenge on her tormentors who have tried to seize the moral high ground with their charges that her wiretapped conversations with Garcillano were sufficient evidence to prove that she had cheated in the elections.

Garcillano is a witness with a shattered credibility. His testimony is worthless whether it is intended to clear the President or to smear or show the hypocrisy of her detractors.

The hearings have opened a peripheral issue that is irrelevant to election cheating and the legitimacy of the President. That issue focuses on who ordered the military intelligence service to tap the conversations between the President and Garcillano. This issue involves national security. If the President is not safe from wire-tapping by the Armed Forces, the implication is that the commander in chief has lost control over the military.

Should Congress push this issue beyond the end of the year, it is bound to give rise to a nasty confrontation between the military and civil authorities.

This is one important reason the charade over the Garcillano tapes has to end. No one has gained from it. Nothing is to be gained from it—least of all the cause of discovering the truth behind allegations of election cheating.

Two bills need your support

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, DESPITE THE MANY MATTERS they're investigating and the political crises in which they're embroiled, our legislators still manage to do their real job, which is to craft legislation and shepherd them into becoming laws.

The good news is that two key pieces of legislation have made significant progress through the congressional mill, paving the way for better and more focused responses to important social issues. The bad news, though, is that one bill has been passed by only one chamber, the Senate, while the other bill is up for plenary discussion only in the House of Representatives, being stuck at the committee level in the Senate.

In the House, HB 3773, now known as the "Responsible Parenthood and Population Management Act," has moved one step closer to becoming a law. Six months ago, the bill was reported out of the committee on rules after having hurdled the committee on women, but because the House leadership and members were, to put it mildly, "preoccupied" by other matters, including a failed bid to impeach the President, pending measures got lost in the maze.

But this week, HB 3773 made it to second reading and sponsorship, mainly because the bill's "champions," led by Rep. Edcel Lagman and Rep. Josefina Joson, chair of the committee on women, timed their sponsorship for a day when, so Lagman predicted, there would be a quorum as the House leadership was mobilizing attendance for the passage of anti-terrorism bills.

* * *

EVEN so, the bill's sponsors had to avoid several roadblocks. An account of the day's events recalls that when Rep. Del de Guzman, in his role as floor leader, announced that the next item on the agenda was the sponsorship of HB 3773, Rep. Abraham Mitra stood up to question the existence of a quorum. The proceedings were immediately suspended while the bill's supporters, among them Representatives Lagman, Joson, Garin, Remulla, Macias, Lacson, Silverio and Custodio, approached Speaker Joe de Venecia and Majority Floor Leader Prospero Nograles to persuade them to allow the bill's sponsorship to proceed.

When the session resumed, Rep. Mat Defensor, who was by then acting as floor leader, began to tackle another matter. Rep. Crispin Remulla then stood up to pose a parliamentary inquiry on why another matter was up for discussion when HB 3773 was already up for sponsorship. Defensor replied that the House leadership had changed its mind because there were other "priority" issues that needed their attention. Remulla then moved to call the roll to determine the quorum.

After more lobbying during the break, the floor leader then announced that the next item would be the sponsorship of HB 3773. Representatives Mitra and Rolex Suplico then stood up to question the change in the "priority agenda," but the House leadership stood by its decision, with the Speaker clarifying that the bill would only be sponsored, with no interpellations entertained so that other priority measures could be deliberated on.

"Happily," the account says, the "champions" (Representatives Joson, Lagman, Rissa Hontiveros-Baraquel and Janette Garin) then delivered their sponsorship speeches while Representatives Macias, Biron and Silverio submitted theirs to the House secretariat.

If the past six months has been "frustrating," says Kala Constantino of the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD), the next six will be even more so, as discussions on the floor start soon after the New Year. Even more urgent is action from the Senate, where similar bills are still lodged with the committee on health, chaired by Sen. Pia Cayetano, who has vowed to call the first committee hearing soon.

* * *

MEANWHILE, a week before the sponsorship of HB 3773, the Senate passed SB 1402, the Juvenile Justice Bill, which seeks to address the plight of children in conflict with the law.

SB 1402 seeks the adoption of a Comprehensive Juvenile Justice System, designed to "keep children (who have committed) petty offenses out of jail, and provide child-rights based treatment for them."

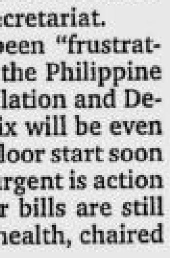
The bill has four major features: raising the age of criminal liability of children from 9 years to 12 years old; maintaining separate detention quarters for children; introducing the diversion program (seeking alternate forms of accountability other than going to court) at the community level; and creation of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention under the Department of Justice. The main sponsor of the bill in the Senate is Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan.

* * *

WHILE the bill's sponsors are optimistic about its ultimate passage, much work remains to be done. The bill has yet to progress in the House of Representatives, where it is lodged with the Committee on Justice headed by Rep. Simeon Datumanong. Public pressure, mainly through letters to the House leadership, the committee on justice and to your individual representative needs to be applied to convince the House to give priority to the passage of the bill.

As of September this year, there were over 4,000 children in jails and detention centers around the country. Most of these children in conflict with the law (the preferred term to "juvenile delinquents") were charged with minor offenses, such as petty theft, glue or solvent sniffing, vagrancy and violation of curfew hours. It's truly sad to contemplate that for most of these children, their first jail stint will most probably be their introduction to a life of criminality, that is, unless the law intervenes now through the passage of the Juvenile Justice Bill.

Two friars from Palencia



LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

AS I MENTIONED IN A PREVIOUS COLUMN, IT was uncanny that the successful Tribuna Espana-Filipinas hosted by Casa Asia and the City of Madrid opened on Nov. 30, 2005, a national holiday in Manila in honor of Andres Bonifacio who started the Philippine Revolution against Spain. My reference to this, in my presentation, made some people in the audience flinch, but then while I always tell my students to try and escape from history, we should not forget. That is the main point of holidays and commemorations: to make us remember.

Speaking of holidays, most people do not know that we now celebrate Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day as a result of a bill sponsored by Sen. Edgardo Angara. The historical event being commemorated was the last stand of Spanish soldiers in Baler, Quezon, who after their surrender to the Filipino revolutionaries were accepted as friends rather than enemies. There were about 35 soldiers in the so-called Siege of Baler and their descendants remember that historic event, thus Angara has a standing invitation to visit the 35 Spanish towns where these soldiers were born.

Madrid was dreadfully cold last Dec. 2, and it rained, so I bid goodbye to my stroll around the city and the galleries of the Prado and joined the senator on a day trip to the province of Palencia, which turned out to be colder because it was windy that day and it happens to be over 200 kilometers north of Madrid. My only consolation was that I was going to see a new place that I wouldn't visit on my own, and knowing the warmth of Spanish hospitality, I was assured of a good meal. We met with Enrique Martin Rodriguez, president of the Diputacion de Palencia, and Francisco Javier Villafruela Fierro, mayor of Carrion de los Condres. What little Spanish I remembered from college was put to good use and, with some encouragement from two glasses of wine, I was surprised to discover that I could understand what people were saying and even make myself understood with my broken Spanish.

It was a fruitful visit for me because the mayor of Carrion de los Condres came to the meeting prepared with a slim folder containing pictures of artifacts and historic sites that have relevance to the Philippines. In the Real Monasterio de Santa Clara (same congregation of nuns as those in Quezon City who pray for sunny weather), they conserved a number of elaborate priestly vestments in silk with the characteristic embroidered flowers and other designs that remind us of the famous Manton de Manila. While these were said to have come from Manila, I reminded them that these actually came from China.

There were some 18th- and 19th-century religious carvings in ivory that were also believed to have come from the Philippines. But after looking at the photos, I told the mayor these were not Hispano-Philippine ivories (a term now used in the major auction houses) but were probably from Goa and were of Indo-Portuguese make.

What did surprise me though was that this sleepy town happens to be the birthplace of two Spanish friars who figured in our history: the Dominican Miguel de Benavides and the Augustinian Mariano Gil. If you know your Philippine history, you will remember that the Dominican was, according to a ceramic plaque outside his birthplace, the first archbishop of Manila. When Benavides passed away, his library went to the University of Santo Tomas which acknowledges him as its founder. Any proud UST alumnus will tell you that the university is not only Royal and Pontifical, it may not be good in basketball, but it is older than Harvard. We are hoping that UST will coordinate to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the death of Benavides next year.

Unfortunately, the other friar is a villain in our history, and he is the more interesting character for it was through him that the existence of the Katipunan, initially believed to be just a rumor, was confirmed. Our history books record the "discovery" of the Katipunan by Mariano Gil on Aug. 19, 1896. This started a series of events that led to the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution some days after, and, mind you, to this day historians have yet to agree on a common date. We actually have a range of dates from Aug. 20 to 30 and even a wild card date which is Sept. 5, 1896.

The story is worth recounting here. Mariano Gil was the parish priest of Tondo and had been telling the government—no less than Governor General Ramon Blanco himself—that there was a secret Masonic society in the country and that a revolution was brewing. Nobody believed him. Then something happened between two Katipuneros: Teodoro Patiño, a native of Capiz working as a laborer in the Spanish newspaper Diario de Manila, and Apolonio de la Cruz. First there was a heated argument that led to blows. Afterwards Patiño visited his sister Honoria who was an *agraciada* or free border at the Augustinian Orphanage in Mandaluyong and unburdened himself of the secrets of the Katipunan. His sister was so frightened that she started to cry. The portress of the orphanage Sor Teresa, was also from Capiz, happened to pass by and she asked Honoria why she was crying. Hearing about the Katipunan, she brought Teodoro and Honoria to the priest and the rest is history.

How we choose to commemorate these two friars from Palencia depends on our interpretation of history.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Two Tsinoy books

THIS EARLY, I'VE RECEIVED TWO HOLIDAY GIFTS, BOTH books related to the Tsinoy (Chinese-Filipino) community. I pounced on the books and found them such good reads that I thought I should share a bit what's in the books, while recommending them for holiday gifts, whether Tsinoy or not.

History and adventure

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

The first book, "Tsinoy: The Story of the Chinese in Philippine Life," was just launched last Sunday. It's a coffee table book edited by Teresita Ang See, Go Bon Juan, Doreen Go Yu and Yvonne Chua, with contributions from some of the editors, plus Richard Chu, Edgar Wickberg, Rita Ching Tan, Marisse Cojuangco-Reyes, Carmela Ang See, Fannie Tan Koa and Ivan ManDy. Each article is actually a story about one part of the Chinese diaspora in the Philippines, spanning several centuries to include, as the inside cover explains, "history and adventure, chronicle and trivia."

Settle the dispute about what "Sangley," the term used to refer to the Chinese during the Spanish period, actually meant. Turns out the term is from the Hokkien Chinese *siong lai* (frequent coming): the Chinese were the original frequent fliers to the Philippines, except they came by sea.

Read about our early addiction to imported ceramics from China, and about the amazing saga of Sultan Paduka Batara, who in 1417 traveled from Sulu to China with two other sultans, their wives, ministers and families. The sultan died there and one wife and two sons stayed, eventually settling in the province of Shandong. In 2005, the sultan's descendants were able to come back to the Philippines to visit their long-lost relatives.

Learn about the emergence of a prosperous class of Chinese *mestizos* and *mestizas* during the 19th century, and how their descendants, including someone named Jose Rizal, played important roles in the Philippine Revolution.

Read about the new wave of migration during the American colonial period, with attempts by the US authorities to limit their entry, and how this led to the Chinese coming up with all kinds of names and identities.

Learn about the 1,000 Chinese who formed a third of the labor force that built Kennon Road, with several staying on and intermarrying, and starting the famous vegetable farms in Benguet (losing out now, sadly, to import liberalization).

Read about the guerrilla groups formed by local Chinese to fight the Japanese.

Slow down as you get closer to the 21st century, with several more essays taking us into the 21st century, as the Chinese integrated into the mainstream, in business, politics and culture.

I can't over-emphasize the fact that this book isn't really about the "Chinese" but about the meeting of two peoples to shape the Philippines. By looking back at a shared past, the book helps us to map the future, which is all the more crucial as we continue to search for nationhood.

You can get the book for P2,400 from Kaisa in Intramuros. Call (526-6796, 526-6798), write (kaisa@philonline.com) or visit the website (www.kaisa.ph).

Bridging faiths

A few years back, Jesuit Communications produced a videotape titled "Ha Ha Po Pi," documenting how the local Chinese community had syncretized or mixed Catholicism and Chinese religions (Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism). Now it has published a kind of sequel: Ari C. Dy's "Building a Bridge."

As the subtitle explains, this book is about how "Catholic Christianity meets Chinese-Filipino culture," not an easy encounter as Ari explains in his review of the history of Christianity in China. He describes how Mateo Ricci and other Jesuits gained favor in the 16th century with the Ming rulers by integration, living like the Chinese, speaking and writing in Chinese, even producing beautiful Chinese paintings, which I've seen in museums. They shared their knowledge of Western sciences with the Chinese and, most importantly, wrote about Jesus and Christianity. Quite a few Chinese were impressed enough to convert to Catholicism.

Alas, Ricci and his colleagues were accused of being disloyal to the Roman Catholic Church, and even of being ashamed of Jesus Christ. Ricci explained that he and the other Jesuits were being sensitive to Chinese culture, but their superiors were unimpressed and up to fairly recently, Chinese religious customs were tagged as "idolatrous" and incompatible with Catholicism.

Times do change and in the post Vatican II era, more attention has been given to "inculturation," responding to local traditions without necessarily compromising on basic tenets of the faith. Ari's book describes all these developments and what they mean for the Tsinoy Catholic. For example, having geomancers check on dates for a wedding is tolerable, but we are reminded that for baptism, the Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us the godparents "must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized . . . on the road to Christian life." There are even suggested liturgies for various occasions, including one for ancestor veneration (note, veneration, not worship).

The book is not prescriptive at all. I especially enjoyed Ari's reflections on a range of issues, from interpreting the animals in the Chinese zodiac (you must read his exposition on the monkey, the Lord of the Rings and the Chinese epic Journey to the West!) to the boddhisatva Guanyin (Goddess of Mercy) and her parallels to the Virgin Mary. And talk about a blending of cultures: some of the pieces were actually Lunar New Year homilies.

No more limbo

Ari's book is timely, coming as the Catholic Church continues to reexamine the meaning of being "catholic" or universal. I read recently that the Vatican will probably be eliminating the concept of "limbo," that place where the souls of unbaptized infants supposedly go to. It turns out this idea of "limbo" was never really part of fundamental Catholic teaching, just a medieval theological hypothesis that somehow became popular with Catholics.

In many ways, Chinese-Filipinos often find themselves in limbo, mixing and matching different practices from different faiths and ending up in a state of suspension, neither here nor there. Ari describes this problem as one where Tsinoys are "sacramentalized but not evangelized," participating in Church rituals only at high points in life (birth, marriage, death) but not much more.

"Building a Bridge" assures us the solution is not to turn to dogmatism, but to understand how grace is all around us, waiting to be discovered as he does so well, in the food prepared by the women in his life, in folk tales and folk religions, in the daily cycles of living. That's why I recommend the book not just for the Tsinoy but for anyone interested in issues around faith and culture.

"Building a Bridge" is available at the Ateneo de Manila University Press' outlets in Loyola as well as in SM Megamall. Call Jesuit Communications at 426-5971 for more information.

Not an insult to 'iskolar'

THIS IS ADDRESSED to all people who think that the course Social Science 3 (Gender and Sexuality) offered in the University of the Philippines undermines academic excellence and promotes moral depravity. (PDI, 11/30/05)

Don't take the class. And if you're already taking it, drop it. It's that simple.

Some people never get decent sex education. They never learn about practicing safe sex, they never learn about condoms, they never learn about STDs (sexually transmitted diseases). And all these things are very real risks that some university students actually face.

I salute the university for identifying a need and filling it. It is sad that some bigots choose to impose their moral standards on other students who actually want to learn things that will be useful at some points in their lives. The class is not an insult to the "*iskolar ng bayan*."

It is in fact an acknowledgment of their maturity and open-mindedness, an acknowledgment that some students apparently do not deserve.

—TINKA HERRERA,
BS Business Economics,
University of the Philippines,
Diliman, Quezon City

Edjop's life its own reward

I AM WRITING IN RESPONSE TO THE LETTER of Arnold Van Vugt. "Who's the Real Hero?" (PDI 11/23/05)

First of all, I would like to thank Mr. Van Vugt for being such a true friend to Edjop (Edgar Jopson). Secondly, I would like to thank the Ateneo for honoring heroes, not just the dead, but more so the living ones. It is in these times that we, especially the youth, need heroes for models. Third, I would like to thank the Ateneo for not over-popularizing my uncle Edjop; I think that it gives him greater honor and makes him more Atenean. "Karaniwang Tao" is the kind of honor I think, he truly deserves. I don't think he would have felt bitter about that. In the Ateneo we are taught "to labor and not to ask for reward." A popular reward would not have given justice to what he lived for.

Look at what we did to Jose Rizal, one of Ateneo's most glorified alumnus. We put his face on the peso whose value has so depreciated. Today, we, as a nation, spend it for "*pambayad utang*" just as easily as a P1-text message flies away. Yes, we put Rizal on a pedestal, but, after doing so, we have altogether forgotten him there.

Even as Atenean from elementary through college (and now working here), I only got to know about my uncle through stories. And through the years, I could count only four times that we discussed him in class. One time I brought him up; twice he was alluded only in passing. I tried to look for the Jesuits of his generation, but most of the time I was referred to other Jesuits. Some pointed me to Father Bonoan. Too bad, he's already dead. One time, I "found" him in some informal discussions with friends and selected faculty. *Pero parang patago.* (But it was like a clandestine meeting.)

Is it subversive or even heretical to speak of Edjop? Or, maybe, it is deviant. For why should we promote the path of life he chose among our students? An elite leaving "the good life" and choosing to be "ruined for eternity" by living with and for the *karaniwang tao*—the poor (as we call them from our hilltops).

I think that the young may find either of two things happening to them while studying in the Ateneo: One is that they may discover themselves specially odd; or they might turn out to be just like everybody else (yes, the "Armeow" accent included).

I think Edjop's calling was not just to be an Atenean, but to be a "magi"—*maging tao para sa tao*. A man for others. *Karaniwang tao* is the real hero Edjop aspired to live for.

His chosen life has turned out to be its own reward.

—REDOLFO GUERRERO JOPSON PLOPINIO,
Office of Student Activities,
Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

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Christmas tree stranger in strange land

By Vincent Cabreza
Baguio City

BAGUIO CITY'S GIANT LIVING CHRISTMAS tree on Session Road is a stranger in a strange land. It is not a pine tree, but it resembles one.

The species, called the Norfolk Island pine (*Araucaria excelsa*) that is native to Australia, is as foreign as the former American city that was established in 1909.

But the 50-foot tree, whose lights were switched on Dec. 1 to mark the city's Christmas celebration, has enough memories to be counted among Baguio's potential landmarks in its centennial celebration in 2009.

Benedicto Alhambra, city tourism officer, said the story of the country's tallest Christmas tree was being documented, along with those of other local districts, "so these can be passed on to future Baguio generations."

Ludivico Badoy, executive director of the National Historical Institute, has been visiting the summer capital to help a centennial committee compile and validate historical data, relics and biographies of old-timers, Alhambra said.

American historian Robert Reed said Baguio was built by the US colonial government as a hill station to escape the tropical heat. On Reed's thesis alone, the whole city should be declared a living historical artifact, said former Mayor Virginia de Guia.

De Guia, 89, had lobbied against various government projects that threatened to alter the landscape, including a flyover project and a proposed walkway for a shopping mall.

Heritage zone

Government historians have not backed his suggestion to convert the city into a heritage zone.

But old-timers like former city architect Joseph Alabanza are proposing measures to include whole villages as historical monuments "for the memories they carry, and not the relics they have preserved."

Baguio's only living Christmas tree provides one such memory.

Residents have taken it for granted, and while government employees adorn it with Christmas lights, it fails to draw crowds when the mayor counts down to its lighting in programs that copy the ceremonial lighting of New York City's Christmas tree.

The Norfolk Island pine is the only survivor of a landscaping trial in the 1950s, said Alabanza, a former presidential assistant for urban development. His staff planted three Norfolk pine trees in front of the old public market.

"There was still no [traffic] channeling at the time, so we [introduced] the Norfolk pine to begin the landscaping of that part of the city in the last part of the 1950s," Alabanza said.

He said the trees helped mark future sights for traffic islands.

"We selected the Norfolk pine because it had a better chance of branching out more evenly [compared to the Benguet pine] … so we would not need to worry about how it would affect vehicular traffic," he said.

Mayor Braulio Yaranon said he could not recall this tree standing when he served as city secretary in the 1950s. "Maybe it was a small sapling [at the time]. Through the years, it has gained that size. There are other taller [indigenous pine] trees," he said.

He said the period when the Norfolk took root was the time when the late Mayor Antonio Tabora began importing new floral species.

"Mayor Tabora introduced the African tulips (flame or fountain tree). He brought home a few seedlings when he visited Iligan City, and they thrive in almost every part of Baguio," he said.

He said the Christmas tree and the African tulips provided examples of what it could do to stop the "uglification" of Baguio.

BAGUIO City's Norfolk pine tree along Session Road. VINCENT CABREZA

Manaoag holds 'endearing festival'

HIGH school students join the street-dancing competition in the Galicayo Festival in Manaoag, Pangasinan. RAY B. ZAMBRANO

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Manaoag, Pangasinan

EVERY DAY, FROM DAWN TO dusk of Dec. 1 to 11, the lilting Pangasinan song "Galikin" is continuously played over loudspeakers in the pilgrimage town of Manaoag in Pangasinan.

The playing of the old song, which tells the story of Jesus Christ's birth, signals the start of the "Galicayo Festival" that the town has been celebrating for seven years now.

"Galikin" is short for *"Galicayo,"* a Pangasinan term for "come here," while the town's name, "Manaoag," is Pangasinan for "to call."

Historical accounts say Manaoag, where the Our Lady of Manaoag Shrine is found, became the province's religious center when an apparition of Virgin Mary appeared on a hill one day in December and told the people, *"Galikayo,"* to invite them to pray with her.

Devotees from various parts of the country and those from abroad visit this town year-round to pray to the Our Lady of Manaoag.

"The Galicayo Festival merely affirms that religious tradition of Pangasinan as it is a celebration of the Our Lady of Manaoag's call in thanksgiving," said Monette Acuña, president of the Galicayo Foundation Inc.

The festival is also a cultural extravaganza for devotees and visitors alike, showcasing Filipino fiesta traditions of merriment and revelry.

It is one of only three occasions that the original image of the Our Lady of Manaoag is brought outside the shrine and displayed on a stage outside the church. The other occasions are the town fiesta in May and the first Sunday of October.

The provincial government promotes the Galicayo Festival, which was started by a group of private and civic organizations headed by John John Rosario as one of the local tourism events.

Gov. Victor Agbayani said the province had been investing in what he described as an "endearing festival."

Yearly, the provincial government sets aside funds and donates a 6.09-meter (20-foot) Christmas tree for the festival.

This year's staging was doubly significant because it coincided with the Dominican fathers' 400th year in the town. Special activities, such as the reunion of some 50 Dominican priests who have been assigned to the place, were held on Saturday.

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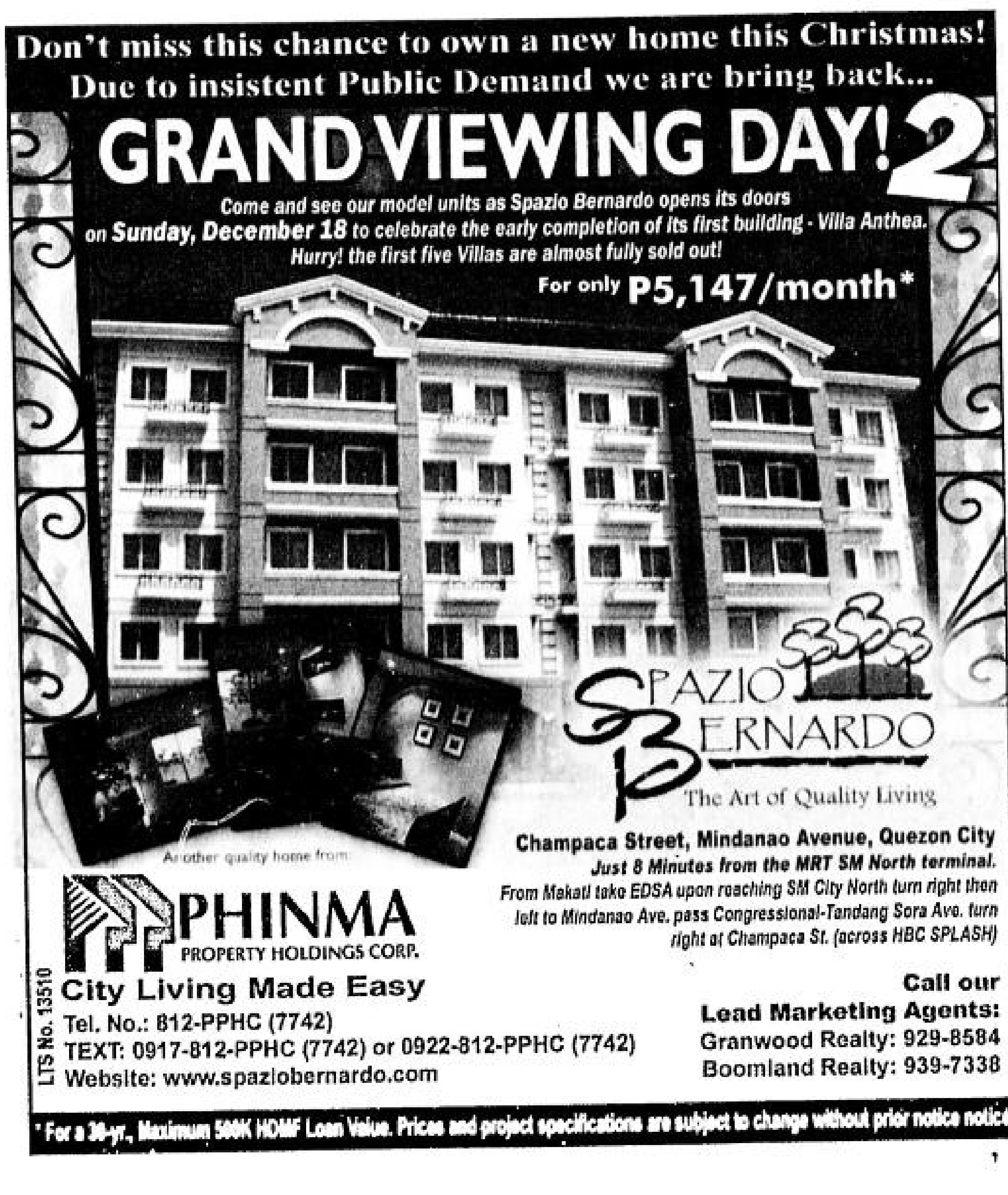

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Bad chop suey downs 107 teachers

LEGAZPI CITY—AT LEAST 107 TEACHERS WERE rushed to various hospitals after suffering from continuous abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea and dehydration starting Monday night.

Dr. Rogelio Rivera, chief of the Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital (BRTTH) based in this city, confirmed that the teachers were positive of food poisoning believed to be caused by chop suey, which could have been spoiled already when served for lunch during the celebration of Teachers' Day.

Rivera said that as early as Monday evening, about 47 teachers had already been rushed to the hospitals. Their last count as of late yesterday afternoon was 57.

The food poisoning, according to him, was quite surprising. He said the damage might be relatively serious because of the number of teachers who were taken to the hospitals.

But he noted that only nine teachers were in serious condition and that they were now closely monitoring the condition of the other patients.

Rivera said he had to conduct a caesarian operation on Renee Rodrigueza, 31, who was expected to deliver on Dec. 20 yet, because the baby in her womb might be affected as the mother was continuously vomiting.

Rodrigueza's mother-in-law, Josefa, said Renee was feeling severe stomachache and experiencing loose bowel movement since Monday afternoon, hours after she came home in Barangay Buenavista.

She said they rushed Rodrigueza to the BRTTH at about 5 a.m. yesterday as she could no longer bear the pain.

Aside from Rodrigueza, a mother of two, three other pregnant teachers gave birth ahead of their schedules due to food poisoning, Rivera said.

He said they expected that the number of food poisoning patients would go up to 80 in BRTTH alone.

He said that aside from the food poisoning cases in BRTTH, they were closely monitoring the other hospitals where other patients were rushed.

Rodrigueza was complaining of severe stomachache and was experiencing loose bowel movement since Monday afternoon, he added.

"The number of affected teachers is still growing, as we know it was a big group of teachers that attended the celebration and partook of the lunch. It could be more than a hundred. It's not only us (BRTTH) that has been admitting patients but also other nearby hospitals, which have reported of patients with similar cases," Rivera said.

Checked by the INQUIRER, the other hospitals in Legazpi City that admitted patients with similar cases are the Tanchuling Hospital, 16 patients; Aquinas, 18; Ago Medical and Education College Hospital, 12, and Sta. Teresita and Estevez memorial hospitals with two patients each.

These hospitals refused to disclose information when contacted by the INQUIRER.

Mayor Noel Rosal, accompanied by city health officer Sarah Vasquez, immediately made a round of the hospitals to check on the condition of the poisoned teachers.

Authorities are now investigating the food caterer, reportedly a former Department of Education Legazpi City Division supervisor. *Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

PANGASINAN FEST
Students take to the streets in colorful costumes to celebrate the Galicayo Festival in Manaoag, Pangasinan.

Tuguegarao officials declare state of calamity

TUGUEGARAO CITY—THE CITY council on Monday declared a state of calamity here after floods submerged at least 18 villages following five days of heavy rains.

City officials said the declaration would enable them to use the local government's calamity funds to help farmers recover their crop losses and to buy relief goods for families displaced by the floods.

Records from the city disaster coordinating council showed that vegetables, corn, palay and tobacco plants worth at least P10 million were destroyed due to floods and heavy rains.

The amount represented losses in 250 hectares of palay farm, 878 hectares of corn plantation and 80 hectares of vegetable farm.

Officials said five evacuation centers have been put up for residents in the northwestern villages of the city, including a village at the bank of the Pinacanauan River. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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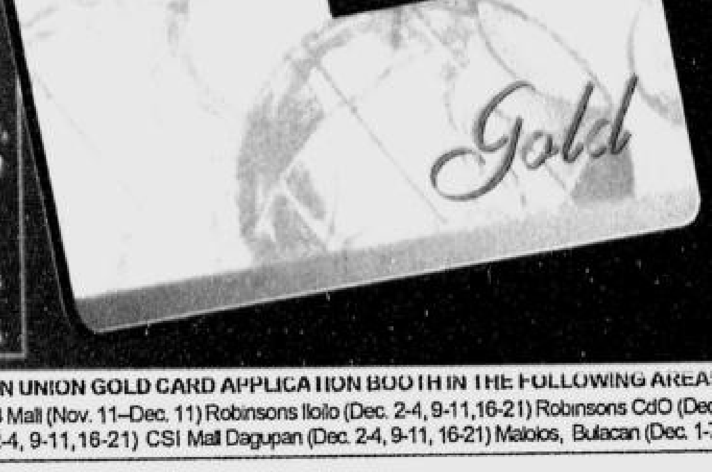

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Group says wild birds bird flu victims, too

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LUCENA CITY—BIRDLIFE International has refuted the popular belief that wild birds are carriers of the deadly virus that causes bird flu.

BirdLife International, based in the United Kingdom, is a global partnership of conservation organizations that strive to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity.

According to Dr. Michael Rands, BirdLife director and chief executive, the year draws to a close and millions of wild birds have already flown to their wintering sites across Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas but without the widely predicted outbreaks of the H5N1 bird flu virus associated with the bird's migration routes.

"The hypothesis that wild birds are to blame is simply far from proven. The most obvious explanation is that migrating wild birds are not spreading the disease," Rands said in a statement, a copy of which was furnished the INQUIRER.

He said migratory wild birds were blamed for spreading bird flu from Asia to the west.

"Yet there's been no spread back eastwards, nor to South Asia and Africa this autumn," he said.

Rands said the limited outbreaks in eastern Europe are on southerly migration routes but are more likely to be caused by other factors such as the import of poultry or poultry products.

"Wild birds occasionally come into contact with infected poultry and die: They are the victims, not vectors of H5N1 bird flu," he said.

Avian flu or bird flu is a very contagious disease caused by viruses that normally infect only birds.

But the virus has since mutated and it is now causing infections or even deaths to poultry and human.

A report from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said the disease has already claimed 61 human lives in various Asian countries since 2003.

Rands maintained that better bio-security is the key to halting the spread of bird flu.

"But the virus can rapidly mutate, so it's important to monitor wild bird populations to look for evidence of new strains arising," he said. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Buy Pinoy drive

SAN PABLO CITY—The San Pablo City Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. (SPCCCII) has launched last week the Buy Pinoy Movement to urge the public to buy Filipino products. SPCCCII president Virgilio "Ike" Prudente, in a news release, said the public should support the chamber's Buy Pinoy Movement to encourage and revitalize local businesses in the city and Laguna province. The chamber said it believes that buying products produced by fellow Filipinos will help prevent the exodus of Filipino wealth that should instead support livelihood in the country.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Girl dies of meningo

LEGAZPI CITY—The Department of Health on Dec. 5 confirmed that the death on Dec. 1 of a year-old girl from Barangay Tagas in Daraga, Albay was caused by meningococcemia. Assistant regional health director Dr. Ferchito Avelino said two of at least six cases of meningococcemia in Bicol had been confirmed by the Center for Health and Development. Aside from the victim in Daraga town, the other confirmed casualty was from Sorsogon. Avelino called for the suspension of classes in Tagas Elementary School after the meningococcemia case broke out in the village.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Helper shot dead

TIAONG, Quezon—Two motorcycle riding gunmen killed a police helper who was on his way back to the police station from his daily marketing chore on Thursday. Alfredo Cabunag, 40, errand man, was shot in the back of the head with a .45 cal. pistol as he walked back to the station from the market. He died on the spot. The suspects, both wearing helmets, fled to San Pablo City. A report said a few days before the shooting, the victim and a village councilor had an altercation and that village officials threatened the victim. Investigators said the village official was seen in the vicinity of the crime scene several minutes before the attack. The police tried to look for the official, who was reported to be in hiding.

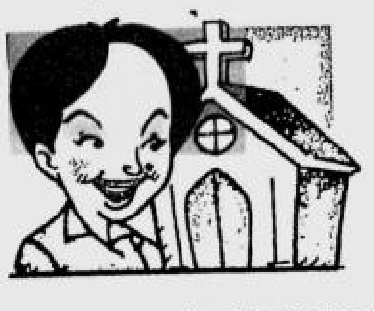
Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Laguna brownout

PANGIL, Laguna—Four Laguna towns suffered a power outage at about 4 a.m. yesterday amid heavy rains. Emelyn Icarangal, institutional services department manager of the First Laguna Electric Cooperative, said a 13.8 kilovolt line at the Kalayaan-Lumban area was struck by coconut palms, causing the power cutoff. Power was restored in the towns of Paete, Pangil, Pakil and Kalayaan towns at about 2:15 p.m. yesterday, she said.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

GMA graces priest rites



TUGUEGARAO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo on Thursday flew to this Cagayan City as a guest in the ordination of four priests at the Saints Peter and Paul Metropolitan Cathedral. The President arrived at the cathedral at past 4 p.m. as the ordination of Reverends Anthony Singson, Elimar Pagulayan, Narciso Desuyo and Lorenzo Marzo was ongoing. Tuguegarao Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan had invited Ms Arroyo to the ceremony. Ms Arroyo visited this city on Thursday as the Senate resumed its investigation of the wire-tapped conversations allegedly between her and former election official Virgilio Garcillano.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

T. Mallari; 75

TERESITA-Trinidad vda de Mallari of Lucena City, Tagaytay City and Talisay, Batangas died on Dec. 11 from a lingering illness. She was 75. She is survived by her children and children-in-law: Gerlie and Joey, Chichi and Boy, Sonny and Percy, Marlon and Evelyn; Ghee; grandchildren: Cindy and Edwin, Maan, Theresa, Vannette, Epoch and Mardy, Ryan, Menchie, Niño, Tsiboy, Marvelyn, Marlon Jr., Melvin, Meryll, Malvin, Marlan, Jhet, Jev and Jillian; brother and sisters-in-law: Fr. Francisco Mallari S.J., Fe, Millet, Nonie and Tony. She was the mother of INQUIRER correspondent Delfin Mallari Jr. Her body lies at the Mallari Compound in Barangay Tolentino East, Tagaytay City. Interment will be at the Emerald Memorial Shrine in Barangay Patotong Malaki, Tagaytay City, at a date to be announced later.

FEDERALISM

Group wants Palawan in Moro state

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—THE Muslim community in Palawan has proposed the inclusion of the province in the Bangsamoro state in case the shift to a federal form of government pushes through.

In a position paper of the Palawan Bangsamoro, it said it has the right to claim parts of southern Palawan such as the municipalities of Aborlan, Narra, Brooke's Point, Sofronio Española, Bataraza, Balabac and extending to the Kalayaan Group of Islands, where majority of Muslim communities are found.

Whatever be the outcome of the move for a separate Palawan state or to cluster it with Western Visayas, the group insisted that the mentioned municipalities should be part of the Bangsamoro state.

"We cannot be with them in their campaign for a separate Palawan Federal State because the Palawan Bangsamoro is fighting different causes," its primer stated.

The group said it was not consulted when local officials were drafting the position of Palawan to become a federal state.

It also claimed that even before the Spanish colonizers came to the Philippines during the 15th century, "there already existed a strong Bangsamoro Nation patterned after the Monarchy of the Middle East."

Earlier historians, it added, clouded the reputation of Moros.

"For fighting to free their homeland, they were called bandits and pirates," the group noted.

These false researches were also used by American historians, the Palawan Bangsamoro said.

"The forced assimilation of the Bangsamoro Nation in the Philippine Commonwealth and later on to the Republic of the Philippines ... is an ugly chapter in Philippine history," the primer said. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

2 Marines killed in clash with Sayyaf men

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Two Marines were killed while eleven others were wounded in a clash with suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits in Patikul, Sulu on Monday morning.

Maj. Gamal Hayudini, Southern Command's information officer, said elements of the Marine Battalion Landing Team 9 (MBLT9) were conducting a combat patrol operation in Barangay Tugas when they chanced upon the bandits.

Killed were Cpls. Jose Pancho and Romeo Rosario, while wounded were Sgts. Lorenzo Jabonga and Gerry Lugsanay, Pfcs. Wilson Lozanes, Ariel Loyola, JR Lopez, Aldrin Iturralde and Jal Sanoh and Privates Rodney Mayono, Noriel Balofinos, Vincent Diaz and Elmer Sabitero.

The slain soldiers were brought to the La Merced Funeral Homes in Sulu while the wounded soldiers were airlifted to this city.

Patikul Mayor Esmon Suhuri, in a telephone interview, said the encounter site was in Sitio Tubig Amu (Water Monkey) in Barangay Tugas, which is at least three kilometers from the MBLT9 detachment in Barangay Marang. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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December 12-15
Glorietta Activity Center

The photo exhibit highlights the achievements in social development work of CODE-NGO, its member networks, and the Peace and Equity Foundation. It also features the Philippine Poverty Map, a tool that is being used to identify multi-stakeholder partnership schemes to support a sustainable program on poverty alleviation.

CODE-NGO Board Governance Workshop
December 14, 8 am to 5pm
E-Library, AIM Conference Center, Makati City
* by invitation only

CODE-NGO has taken on the challenge to NGOs for stronger accountability and transparency. The workshop shall focus on the important roles and responsibilities of board members, identify and address some of the issues of the executive management in dealing with their board, and reflect on the important values, standard of behavior and future challenges for NGO board members.

9th CODE-NGO National Assembly
December 15, 8 am to 5pm
E-Library, AIM Conference Center
* by invitation only

CODE-NGO convenes its member networks to present its accomplishments, ratify various resolutions, and present strategic plans that will shape the future of the network.

Closing Ceremonies
December 15, 5pm
Glorietta Activity Center

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Justice eludes town ruined by mine spill

BOAC, MARINDUQUE—TWELVE YEARS AFTER the Dec. 6, 1993 mine spill that engulfed Mogpog town, justice for the townsfolk has remained elusive even with the case filed against multinational Placer Dome at a US court by the Marinduque provincial government.

"It is ironic that Placer Dome is not being tried here where it committed gross environmental crimes against the people," Mike Magalang, of the Marinduque Center for Environmental Concerns (Macec), said in a statement.

He added: "The fact that we even have to go abroad to seek justice does not speak well of the Philippine government, which insists on reopening mining in Marinduque."

The Marinduque local government served the suit in the United States in October.

It seeks compensation for damages caused when tons of mine wastes from a copper mill owned by the Philippines' Marcopper Mining Corp. spilled into the Boac River in March 1996.

Beneficiaries

Magalang said although the people of Marinduque welcomed the case filed at the Nevada court, they insist that they should be the ones to benefit from any court case against the Canada-based Placer Dome since they were the ones victimized by the mining company.

The Macec official expressed dismay that justice against the company was not being facilitated by the national government.

"Worse, the Arroyo administration is risking the lives of the people because of the dangers posed by dilapidated structures left by the firm," he said.

He pointed to the Maguila-guila siltation dam in Mogpog which collapsed on Dec. 6, 1993, killing two youngsters and rendering the 14-kilometer Mogpog River dead while destroying farm-based livelihood.

Magalang also criticized the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for neglecting the long-overdue rehabilitation of the island.

According to a United States Geological Society study released last April, there are still traces of heavy metal and toxic wastes in Marinduque's waterways and tailing dams.

The Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment also criticized the government's response in Marinduque.

"Instead of immediately addressing the health and environmental impacts and rehabilitating Marinduque, the government's response is to prioritize the reopening of large-scale mining in the island," said Clemente Bautista, Kalikasan-PNE national coordinator.

Bautista urged the people of Marinduque to remain steadfast in resisting any possible reopening of mining on the island.

Moratorium

He said the 50-year mining moratorium declared by the provincial government should translate in unwavering resistance by the people against the resumption of mining, "while continuously struggling for justice for the people of Marinduque."

The Marcopper spill fanned the flames of anti-mining sentiments in the Philippines, which led to legal challenges to the 1995 Mining Act that liberalizes foreign ownership in the sector.

A landmark Supreme Court ruling last year cleared the way for foreign ownership of mines and prompted a government drive to attract $6.5 billion in foreign investment to tap an estimated $1 trillion in mineral wealth. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

FLIGHT OF THE REINDEER GRACE CANTAL-ALBASIN/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU
Lanterns resembling reindeer are hung in a public plaza in Malaybalay City. The city government launched a project to fill the city with lights for the holidays to cheer up residents.

Cops to dress as Santa for tourists

AT YOUR SERVICE, HO-HO-HO!

BAGUIO CITY—THE POLICE ARE ON red alert after the departure of President Macapagal-Arroyo to Malaysia and threats from communist rebels, but police in Baguio and tourist towns in Cordillera and southern parts of the country will display a different kind of red for tourists this Christmas season.

Director General Arturo Lomibao, Philippine National Police chief, ordered the deployment of "tourist oriented police, community oriented police" or Top Cop in this summer capital, Sagada, Mt. Province, Banaue, Ifugao, and tourist destinations in southern Philippines like Boracay, Aklan.

These Santa Claus-garbed police officers will be selected for their know-how about tourist spots and ability to relate to people, said Senior Supt. Joseph Ardol, Cordillera officer for police civil relations.

But based on the suggestions of Mayor Braulio Yaranon, tourist policemen will also be selected based on their Asian language skills, said Senior Supt. Isagani Nerez, Baguio police director.

Baguio is home to over 2,000 expatriates from the United States, Korea, Japan and China, according to Antonio Prieto, Baguio immigration officer.

"The city hosts the second largest population of South Korean students and migrants next to Manila," he said.

Nerez said Baguio is piloting the Top Cop project because the police here consider tourists "an investment."

"When tourists motor up to the city, there is always a corresponding economic revenue, which we need to sustain ... We need to tell our visitors that Baguio is safe," he said.

The project is a component of the experimental community-oriented policing system (Cops) that was piloted in Baguio in the 1990s by police reform advocates.

Lomibao, who proposed the activation of specialized tourist police during his stint as Cordillera regional police director four years ago, drew up a cooperation agreement with the local tourism and communications offices on Saturday to implement the project.

His agreement with Transportation Assistant Secretary Alfredo Gozon and Purificacion Molintas, Cordillera director of the Department of Tourism (DOT), gave the tourist policemen logistics from tourism offices, and access to information from the departments of foreign affairs and labor and employment.

Taking it one step further, the Baguio police also opened their own website www.baguiopolice.com. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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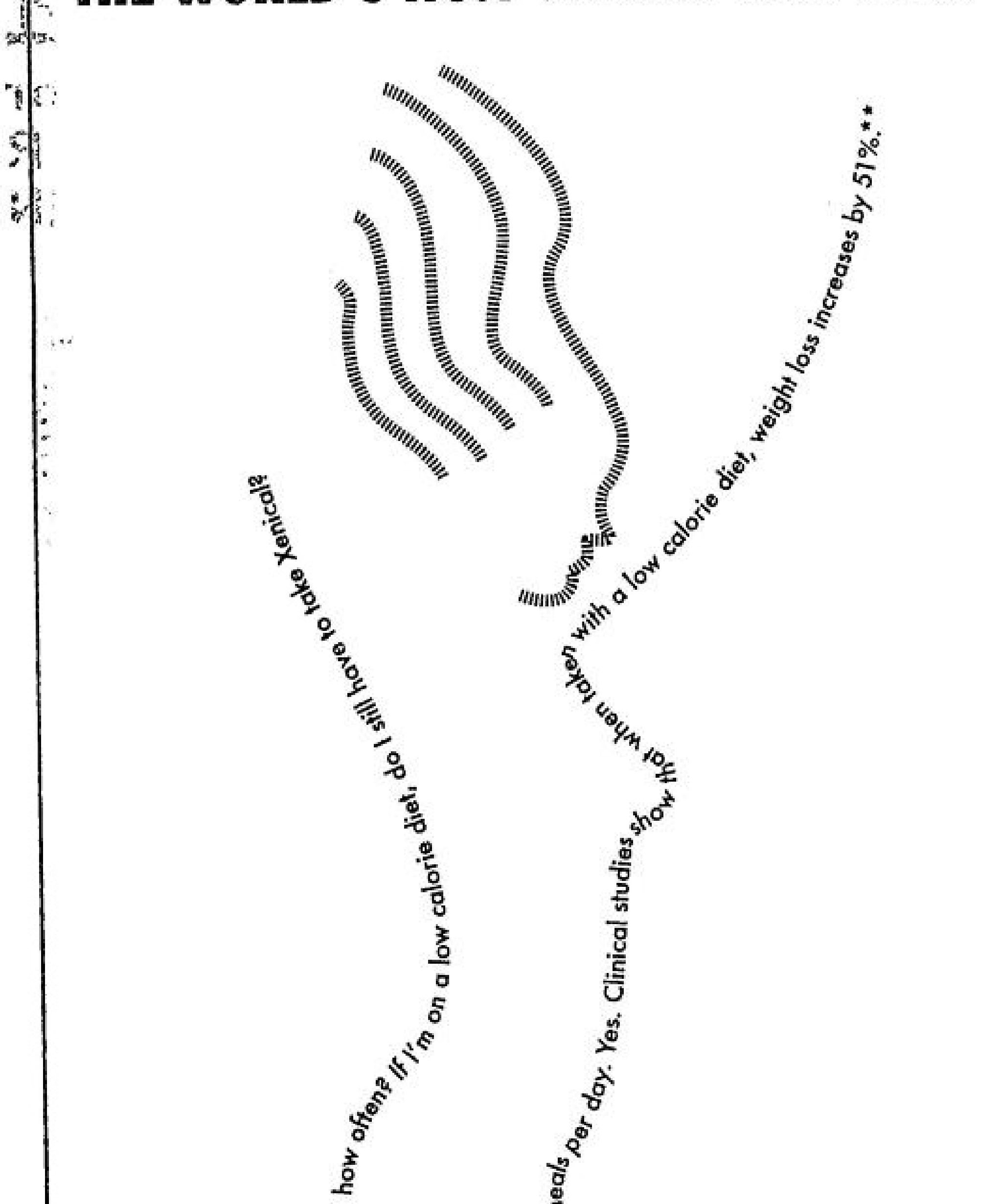
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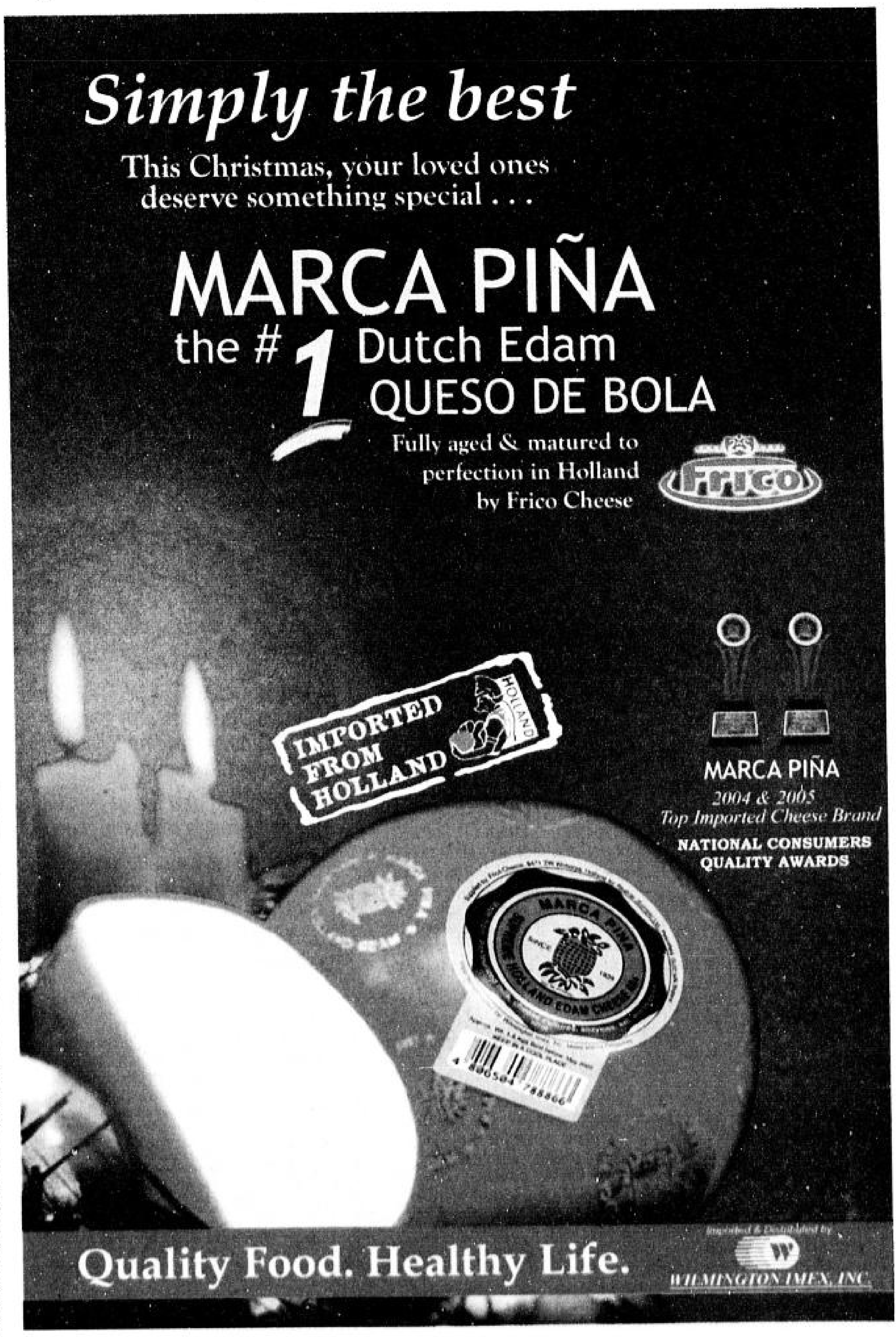

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Abat: Transition gov't in place

From page A1

Abat, 80, who had been previously slapped with sedition complaints filed before the Department of Justice, issued the declaration at Club Filipino in San Juan while sitting with former Ambassador Roy Seneres and former Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez.

He spoke before an audience of about 300 people.

Abat also signed two edicts, one declaring the existence of his self-styled government and the formation of a transition council "to administer the affairs of government."

"By the authority of the assembled regional leaders in the Second Malolos Congress, I hereby proclaim the establishment of a Kapanalig, Kapamahalaan ng Pagkakaisa Para sa Pambansang Kaligtasan (Government of Unity for National Survival," Abat said.

"This proclamation is in exercise of the sovereign right of the people to act and do the necessary to save the country from a governance which is morally bankrupt, distrusted by over two-thirds of the citizenry and which is in paralysis, unable to provide effective and competent leadership that will produce results for the people."

In the second edict, Abat promulgated what he called a "provisional constitution."

Abat, in an interview, claimed he had military support but did not say who were actually behind him and his group.

Asked if there were political personalities in his supposed new government, Abad said there was none.

Abat said he planned to stay at Club Filipino for 48 hours.

1 general, 4 colonels

Earlier yesterday, security officials identified a general and four colonels, including two retired police officials, as leaders of an alleged plot to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo.

A senior military intelligence official said other officers implicated also had links to the opposition that failed to remove Ms Arroyo with an impeachment motion in September.

"We have some names of the alleged coup leaders but we can't take action against them because their involvement was based on intelligence reports," the intelligence official told Reuters.

"There were no overt moves taken, so they were just made to explain by their superiors," he said.

Rumors of a coup d'état during the weekend had worried the military and police top brass enough to send them into crisis mode.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said he checked with his ground commanders on Sunday to assure himself that they were not taking part in the rumored coup.

He said he also checked with his classmates and friends in the other major services in the Armed Forces, who in turn talked to their own men to get their assurance.

Director General Arturo Lomibao, the Philippine National Police (PNP) chief, also said he talked not only to his field commanders but also to those suspected of being involved in the coup d'etat.

He also convened the PNP crisis committee to deal with any worst-case scenario.

Army intact

"As Army commander, I tell you all these (coup) rumors are rumors. I have checked with my commanders since Sunday. The Army is intact," Esperon said in a phone interview.

He said his friends in the Marines, Air Force and the PNP-Special Action Force whose units were rumored to be part of the coup likewise "did not get concrete reports (about the rumored coup)."

"I did not only talk to those who may be involved. I talked to all commanders in the field. They are all behind the flag and the duly constituted government," Lomibao said at a news conference in Camp Crame.

He did not identify the suspected coup plotters he talked to, saying, "I don't like to cause divisiveness within the ranks."

Intelligence report

A military intelligence report given to the President linked two active superintendents in the national police force to the alleged plot after four junior officers were questioned hours before rogue troops supposedly planned to strike early on Monday.

Details of the report were given to Reuters by a government official, who asked not to be identified.

Two retired police officers—one chief superintendent and the other a superintendent and former ally of Ms Arroyo—were also named.

The fourth colonel identified in the report had been removed from his command last year over charges of electioneering ahead of the May 2004 presidential poll.

The colonel was later cleared of charges of campaigning for the main opposition candidate, movie star Fernando Poe Jr., who died before the Supreme Court could rule on his protest that Ms Arroyo had cheated.

The legal challenge ended with Poe's death, the court ruled, but his supporters insist Ms Arroyo stole the presidency.

Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr., the PNP deputy chief for operations, said the crisis committee was convened on Sunday, when the military and police went on full alert after Ms Arroyo left for Malaysia for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit.

Military insiders said several senior officers had been called by Army higher-ups for questioning. Though none were detained, these officers could likely be relieved of their assignments over suspicion they were involved in the coup plot.

Esperon, however, insisted no Army officer was arrested or brought in for questioning.

Reports from Gerry Lirio, Dona Pazzibugan and Reuters

Solons don't buy line AFP …

From page A1

suming the Isafp post, invited his predecessors and regaled them with his sophisticated bugging equipment from the United States, which could be used to track down suspected terrorists.

The equipment included a handy computer, no bigger than an attache case and used to intercept phone conversations and record the voices of pre-programmed targets.

"It's a little difficult to imagine that the top intelligence network of our country would not have that capability," Drilon, who chairs the commission, told reporters, referring to Senga's claim.

Administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago also sounded incredulous.

"If this goes on during his confirmation hearings in the CA, where I am a member, I might compel everybody in the commission to conduct an ocular inspection of the Isafp's so-called war room, or blue room, so that we can substantiate all of these ridiculous claims that there is no equipment for wiretapping in no less than the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (of the Philippines)," Santiago said.

Clashing versions

Senga's statement also contradicted those of TSgt. Vidal Doble and his lover, Senate witness Marietta Santos, that a unit of the Isafp had taped alleged phone conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano on rigging of the 2004 election results.

Senga, speaking at the joint press conference with Drilon, said the Isafp was investigating its MIG 21 unit, the group which allegedly conducted the wiretapping, and the probe has been going on for six months.

Too expensive

But the focus of the probe, he said, was on the alleged P2 million bribe Doble received when he handed over the tape to a third party.

"There is no such thing as wiretapping capability," Senga said. "In fact, it is not wiretapping. We are talking about listening to cellular phone communications. Isafp has no capability to do that. So the people there do not have the technical competence to do such a thing."

CHIEF OF STAFF SENGA answers questions during a press conference on Tuesday on the status of the military operations against the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu but his own status hangs in the balance at the Commission on Appointments. LYN RILLON

He said there was a request for wiretapping equipment during the term of his predecessor, Gen. Efren Abu, but it was not pursued because of the "exorbitant amount involved."

Santiago said Senga's claim was laughable and that the "higher authority" who ordered the wiretapping must be unmasked.

Drilon earlier warned that Senga's confirmation could be derailed if he could not explain why Ms Arroyo's conversations with Garcillano were wiretapped and who ordered the bugging.

Senga had said he would not be able to attend today's CA hearing because he was attending the wedding of his son, which means his confirmation in the present session would be effectively bypassed, Drilon said.

Since Congress is beginning its three-week Christmas break on Thursday, it will not be until the legislature resumes sessions in January that Senga's confirmation will be taken up again.

"When he comes around in January, questions will be asked," Drilon said.

Senga questioned why people would take Marietta Santos' testimony as the gospel truth.

Santos had said she went in and out of the Isafp office and saw bugging equipment in its "blue room."

"I think she does not have the technical competence to identify (bugging equipment). Even I cannot identify how a bugging device looks like," Senga said.

Abu ordered probe

He said the intelligence group also reported to him that it was not true Santos was allowed to roam the Isafp premises.

Senga said that upon assuming office, one of the first units he visited was the Isafp.

"I was informed that such investigation was ordered by General Abu and I told them to proceed with the investigation," he said.

Focus on bribe money

He said the investigation was prompted by Doble's statement that he was paid to say the "Garci tapes" had come from him.

"The investigation was focused on that offense of accepting bribe money. Also the other breaches of regulations which he may have committed," said Senga.

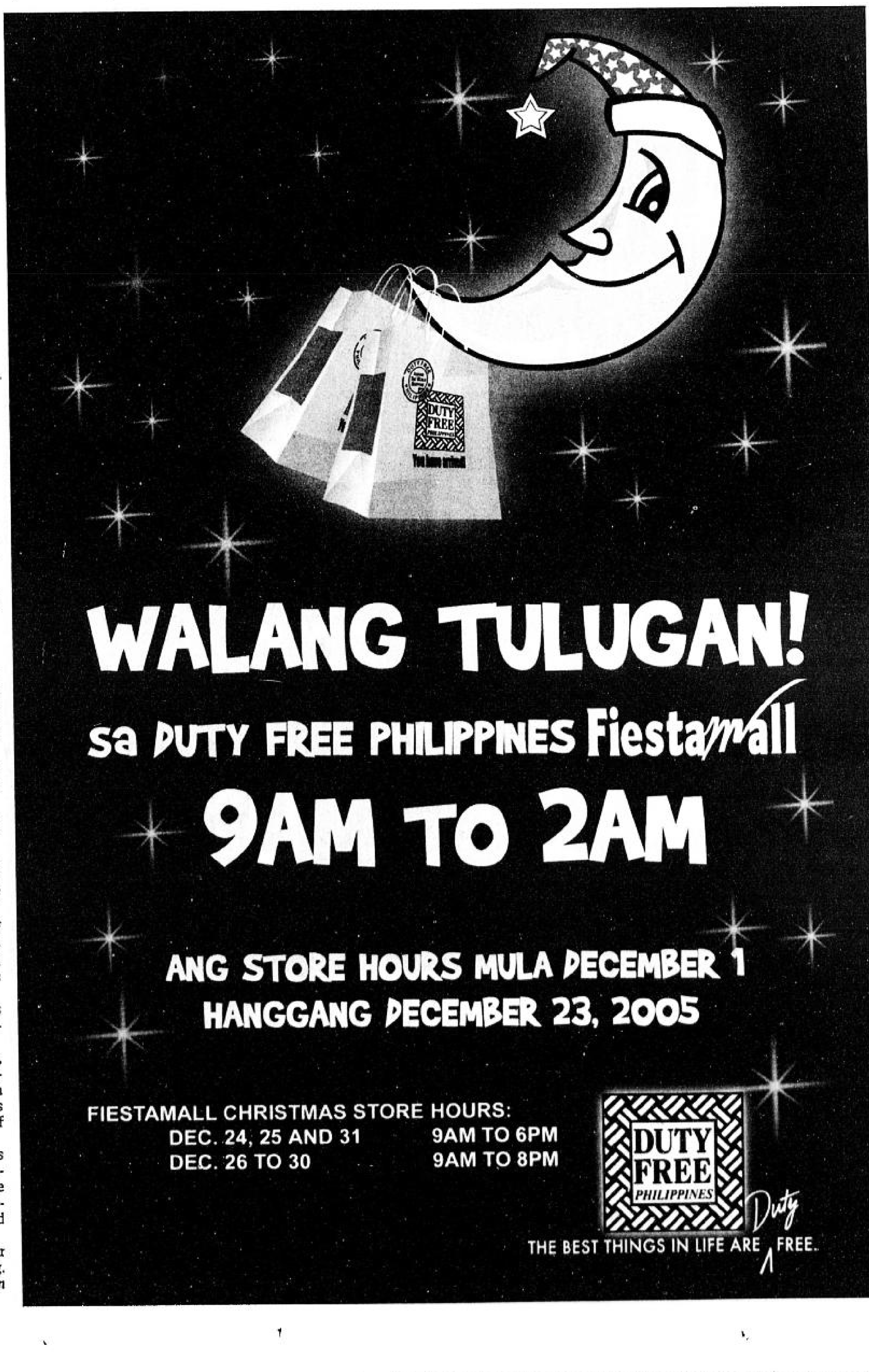
Public's right to know

Drilon said Senga promised to submit a copy of the investigation report to the Senate.

Senga said he could not allow Doble and other Isafp personnel to testify in the Senate investigation because of Executive Order No. 464.

Santiago pressed the AFP to release to the public the results of its investigation on the wiretapping, including the brains behind it.

"The public has a right to know the results of the AFP probe since these have profound implications on the credibility of the 2004 elections and the integrity of our political leaders," she said.



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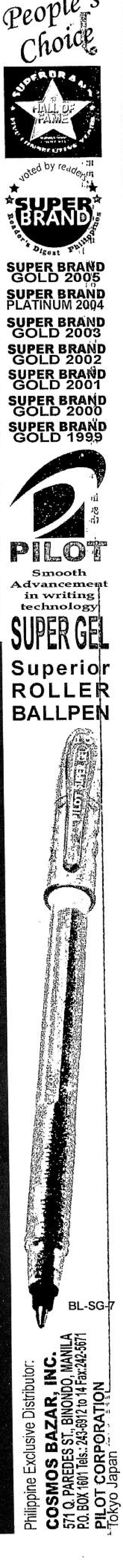

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We can do it too, vow para athletes

RARING TO GO. Physically challenged but on top of their game, bemedalled athletes, weightlifter Adeline Dumapong (seated) and shot put hurler Gerry Gonzalo, blind from a car crash in 1990. RAFFY LERMA

From page A1

sports as swimming, table tennis, badminton, wheelchair basketball, chess, judo, fencing and goal ball.

In the course of the Games, Adeline Dumapong, a 32-year-old woman confined to a wheelchair since childhood, will attempt to lift a 115-kilo barbell.

Gerry Gonzalo, who lost his sight after a car crash, will try to hurl a 16-pound shot put farther than 10 meters.

But Dumapong's barbell and Gonzalo's shot put may seem heavier because they will come with a message—or, more aptly, a cry for equal treatment and the opportunity to be part of mainstream society.

For the close to one million PWDs in the country, that will initially translate to access to the comforts that "ordinary" citizens take for granted, including buildings designed such that polio victims like Dumapong would not have to leave their wheelchairs to get to the second floor.

Equality

"We do not ask for special treatment, only for equality," Dumapong told the Inquirer.

According to the bemedalled weightlifter, PWDs, like other human beings, quickly learn to adapt to their handicap and try to get the most out of life. What is harder to battle is society's prejudice against PWDs.

"Society treats us as headaches, which shouldn't be the case," she said, adding that given the chance, PWDs could contribute a lot to nation-building.

Polio rendered Dumapong's legs useless when she was three years old.

But she made it a rule not to allow her life to revolve around her wheelchair, she said. She played basketball with her friends and raced with other PWDs.

Natural athlete

Dumapong took up computer education at St. Paul College in Quezon City and subsequently worked as a telemarketer.

She started training for weightlifting six years ago.

A natural athlete, Dumapong won a bronze medal at the 2000 Para Olympics in Australia, and a gold at the 2003 Asean Para Games in Vietnam.

She was the lone competitor in her event at the Vietnam Games, lifting 107 kilos and bagging the gold.

She will still be the lone athlete in the field this year, which makes it all the more special.

"I'm competing with myself. I'll try to lift 115 kilos this time," she said.

Where does Dumapong get her inspiration?

"From the other athletes," she said. "I'm blessed because I have a strong upper body. I know many others who have more difficulties, but they are here. They are competing. I'd be ashamed of myself if I were not here."

Independence

For the sightless Gonzalo, it is the chance to compete for the nation that has kept him going.

His friends have extended wholehearted support, driving the 38-year-old athlete to the training field.

Gonzalo said representing the Philippines had made him feel part of society and not someone to be merely pitied or derided.

Perhaps being out there in the field also makes him feel independent—the one thing he has really missed since he lost his sight in 1990, when glass shards pierced his left eye and killed the nerves of his right eye.

Besides shot put, for which he won a silver medal in Vietnam, Gonzalo will compete in the discus throw and in the 4x100-meter relay.

"It feels good playing for your country. It feels good that despite your disability, you can have the chance to make your country proud," he said, adding:

"After the SEA Games, there is pressure to [deliver]. I know we'll do our best; we'll give everything to win."

'Look at us'

The discussion of the SEA Games brought a touch of sadness to the hearts of the Para athletes.

It was as though the just concluded event and the Para Games highlighted their plight as second-class citizens in their own country.

Lamented Dumapong: "I really want to say this: You saw how the country prepared for the SEA Games; [the government] really poured a lot [of resources into it].

"But look at us—we have not even gotten our uniforms. Why couldn't the government extend the same support to us? After all, the two [events] are separated only by days."

While the regular athletes trained for almost a year and were exposed to games abroad, the Para athletes were able to train intensively only in the last four weeks.

Because of the lack of funding, wheelchair basketball coach Noel Ascue was able to bring four of his athletes from Davao and Cebu to Manila for training only this month.

"And we are a national team," he pointed out.

Still hopeful

But the Para athletes have not lost heart.

Said Gonzalo: "I hope the athletes and the volunteers will get more support from the government in the next games."

Quoting Mike Barredo, chair of the Philippine Asean Para Games Organizing Committee, Dumapong summed up what Para athletes intended to achieve by competing: "We are here to create awareness about us."

Python leaves tough cops cowering in fear

From page A1

"The policemen on duty were afraid, but they could not leave because it would be embarrassing to run away while a television camera was filming the whole thing," Senior Police Officer Cesar Sabile said with a chuckle.

The python caused a commotion at the police station. Policemen used to battling tough criminals were forced to destroy an officer's desk where the snake slithered in to hide.

Policemen and village volunteer guards at the station managed to subdue the snake, but one police officer ended up with his desk destroyed so the python could be extricated from its drawer without being harmed.

The incident started before dawn when a bystander saw the python near a fast-food restaurant in nearby Sta. Cruz district.

Village guards managed to capture the snake and bring it to the police station. But the python quickly slithered out of it's captors' grasp and sneaked into a small opening on a policeman's table, causing a commotion.

Inmates in a cell at the station were also alarmed.

The unharmed python, nicknamed "Putol," was later turned over to Manila Zoo representatives.

Nonpoisonous

Python is a common name for nonpoisonous snakes of boa and python family. Large and muscular, they kill their prey by squeezing, until it suffocates.

Although most pythons feed on small mammals, some large species can kill and swallow small pigs and goats. They rarely kill people.

Pythons range from 1 to 10 m (3 to 33 ft) long and weigh up to 140 kg (300 lb), according to a website on the snake. The female lays 15 to 100 eggs, and breeds them until they hatch.

They are found in the tropical and subtropical regions of Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific islands.

"The reticulated python of Southeast Asia is among the largest snakes, reaching a length of 10 m (33 ft). Other well-known pythons are the Indian python, a favorite of snake handlers; African rock python; ball or royal python of equatorial Africa, which curls into a ball and can be rolled on the ground," said www.manbir-online.com/snakes/python.htm. *AP*

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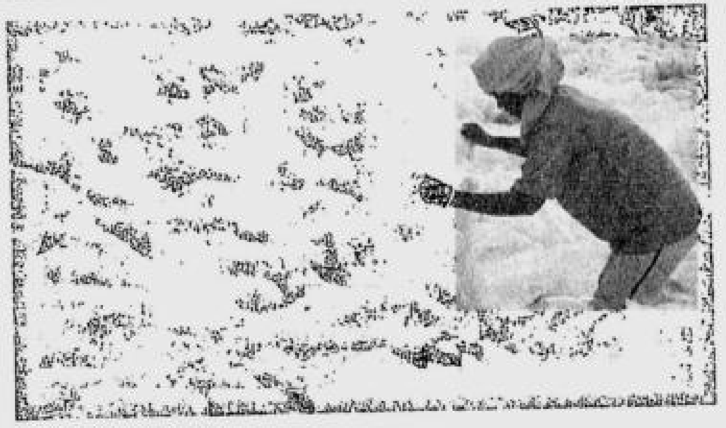
LTFRB to run after erring taxi drivers



NO WASTAGE
A woman spreads out hundreds of plastic bags to dry out in the sun in Payatas, Quezon City. The bags are to be recycled and then sold.
FREDDIE DIONISIO/CONTRIBUTOR

By Clarissa S. Batino

STARTING TOMORROW, THE LAND TRANSportation Franchising and Regulatory Board will deploy teams to malls and taxi stations to ensure that cab drivers do not give passengers a hard time this holiday season.

More and more commuters have been complaining about taxi drivers who either refuse to use their meters or convey passengers, LTFRB Chair Maria Elena Bautista has said.

She observed that on the average, 80 percent of the more than 1,000 complaints forwarded to the agency monthly are about errant cab drivers.

"During the holiday season, it gets worse," said Bautista.

Aside from fielding its teams, the LTFRB has opened its text hotline, 0921-4487777, to commuters who want to file a complaint.

"There are corresponding fines and sanctions for taxi drivers who would be caught," warned Bautista.

A 1994 circular of the LTFRB provides stiff penalties for repeat violations. While the first offense merits just a warning, the second offense requires the taxi driver or operator to pay a fine of P10,000. Failure to do so within five days will lead to the confiscation of the taxi unit.

On the third offense, the taxi's franchise and permit will be suspended for six months. On the fourth violation, the LTFRB will revoke the taxi's franchise.

Meanwhile, Bautista said buses can now get special permits that will let them operate outside their normal routes during the holidays.

The temporary permits are available at P140 each.

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Traffic lighter on Edsa, says MMDA official

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELopment Authority (MMDA) said yesterday that a regulation which bans provincial buses on Edsa's service roads has helped ease up traffic on the major thoroughfare.

"Traffic is lighter on the service roads because the number of buses has decreased," MMDA Traffic Operations Center Angelito Vergel de Dios said.

To further speed up travel time on Edsa for both private and public utility vehicles, the MMDA last week started prohibiting provincial buses from the busy thoroughfare's service roads on both the northbound and southbound lanes.

"Easily, there could be 5,000 buses entering Metro Manila everyday, and out of that, 1,000 [units] pass through Edsa every day. That's a conservative estimate, and that's the number that was [diverted] to underpasses and flyovers," Vergel de Dios said.

Edsa's service roads include outermost lanes used by vehicles to access roads bypassed by tunnels or underpasses and flyovers. Buses had been restricted to using only these lanes when the MMDA designated bus lanes on the thoroughfare to segregate private and public utility vehicles.

The agency's new regulation was also aimed at preventing provincial buses from unloading or picking up passengers on Edsa.

"That's one way to prevent them from loading or unloading [on Edsa], which has been a standing regulation," he said.

Asked how long the restriction would be in place, Vergel de Dios said the MMDA might decide to amend or lift the regulation, depending on traffic flow.

"There's no permanent regulation in terms of traffic. This is subject to review, like all others," he said.

METROBRIEFS

18 hurt in grenade blast

EIGHTEEN people were hurt when a grenade exploded in a flea market on Montillano Street, Barangay Alabang, Muntinlupa City Monday night. Two hours after the incident, the police arrested Samsudih Mokalid, a Maguindanaoan vendor and a former security guard who was believed to be behind the explosion. According to the police, a scuffle broke out at 8:40 p.m. between two Muslim groups which have been feuding over the leadership of a vendors' association in the market. Reynaldo de Jesus, a barangay police, told reporters that when he accosted Mokalid, the latter ran away. The explosion occurred minutes later. Initial investigation disclosed that the blast was caused by an improvised grenade. Police also found a .38-cal pistol and five bullets inside Mokalid's bag. De Jesus was hit by shrapnel in the arm while 17 other persons were rushed to the Ospital ng Muntinlupa for minor injuries. Four of the victims were still in the hospital as of press time.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Makati antidrug council cited anew

ETO KAMI— STILL DRUG FREE!

MAKATI'S antidrug council has received another citation for its drug prevention campaign. The Makati Anti-Drug Abuse Council (Madac) was once again chosen by the Philippine National Police (PNP) as the country's best antidrug body this year, the council's second consecutive win, having received the same award in 2004. In the awarding ceremony held recently at the National Capital Region Police Office headquarters at Camp Bagong Diwa, the PNP recognized Madac for its "steadfast support in the attainment of the vision of a drug-free Philippines," and unwavering "support for the antidrug operations conducted by the Makati Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (AIDS-SOTF)," City Hall said this week. Madac's campaign, done in close coordination with city police and barangay officials, successfully rid 30 of Makati's 33 barangays of drug use and drug peddling. The council's widely recognized strategy included the clustering of barangays into six groups, each one enforcing a multipronged crackdown on drug pushers and abusers.

Tarra V. Quismundo

Bomb found on Garci's route

THE VINTAGE bomb found in Taguig City yesterday morning was not meant for former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. Southern Police District Director Wilfredo Garcia confirmed yesterday that a World War II bomb was found in Sitio Matatag, C-5 Road at Western Bicutan at 10 a.m. yesterday. "Right after a concerned citizen informed us that he saw a bomb in the area, our Scene of the Crime Operatives responded and they found the bomb," Garcia told reporters. But he clarified that it was just a coincidence that a bomb was found on C-5 Road, the route Garcillano took yesterday morning in going to the House of Representatives from Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City. "It was just plain coincidence that it was there and Garci (Garcillano) passed by the area," he said. "The incident has no connection with the explosion in Parañaque City last week and the strafing of the Lourdes Tuason-Arroyo Building in Makati City," the police official added.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Suicide or foul play?

PENDING the results of the paraffin test and autopsy conducted on a 15-year-old girl who reportedly committed suicide in Valenzuela City Monday afternoon, investigators said they could not rule out foul play just yet. "Though there was a suicide note supposedly left by the victim, we still have to wait for the results of the tests," a police investigator said. In the letter, the victim had asked her parents for forgiveness for taking her life. A report filed by SP03 Jesus Saguisi and P03 Percy Villanueva said that the girl's body was found at the back at her house by her seven-year-old cousin. Scene of the Crime Operatives recovered a .30 US Carbine rifle, five bullets loaded in two magazines, three bullets scattered on the ground and two shells near the victim's body. The victim had been shot once in the head. The police, however, said they could not also definitely say if the gun found beside the victim's body was the same firearm that killed her. "We still have to wait for the autopsy on how many gunshots were fired and hit the girl," the investigator said.

Nancy C. Carvajal

School dominates Physics contest

THE MANILA Science High School (MSHS) has bagged the top prize in the PISIKAalaman 2005, a competition for high school students organized by the University of the Philippines Physics Association. Two teams from MSHS won the top two spots in the contest while Philippine Science High School placed third. Fifteen teams from 23 schools competed in the finals where contestants were tested on their knowledge of physics. PISIKAalaman, one of several activities held in observance of the World Year of Physics 2005, was conducted in cooperation with the National Institute of Physics, Samahang Pisika ng Pilipinas and Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

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Kidnap victim's mother recalls ordeal

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE MOTHER OF THE 3-YEAR-old boy allegedly kidnapped by the group of actor and former Quezon City Rep. Dennis Roldan cried yesterday as she told the court how she had pleaded for the life of her only son.

At the start of her testimony, Jenny Yu's voice was calm and her expression stoic.

But tears started falling down her cheeks as she recalled the text messages sent to her by the suspects right after the kidnapping.

Roldan and six others are accused of kidnapping Yu's Chinese-Filipino son on Feb. 9. They allegedly asked for P250 million in ransom at the start of the negotiations.

"If you will not be able to give us the money, then just wait for news about your son's body being dumped," Yu quoted a text message, written in Filipino, sent to her by one suspect who introduced himself as "Mang Ed."

ROLDAN

WANG

He gave her until 5 p.m. on Feb. 15 to produce the money.

"I was devastated. I really could not produce that amount of money. It was so big. We had no money," she said in between sobs.

The kidnappers later agreed to reduce the ransom to P50 million. But she could only produce less than P3 million from her savings.

The family also sold their car and pieces of jewelry just to come up with money, her husband Roger told the INQUIRER.

The deadline finally came and the negotiator threatened to kill her son, even sending text messages every 30 minutes.

"I asked him not to kill my son. I will do anything for my son. I only have one son," she said.

The problem was she did not have enough money.

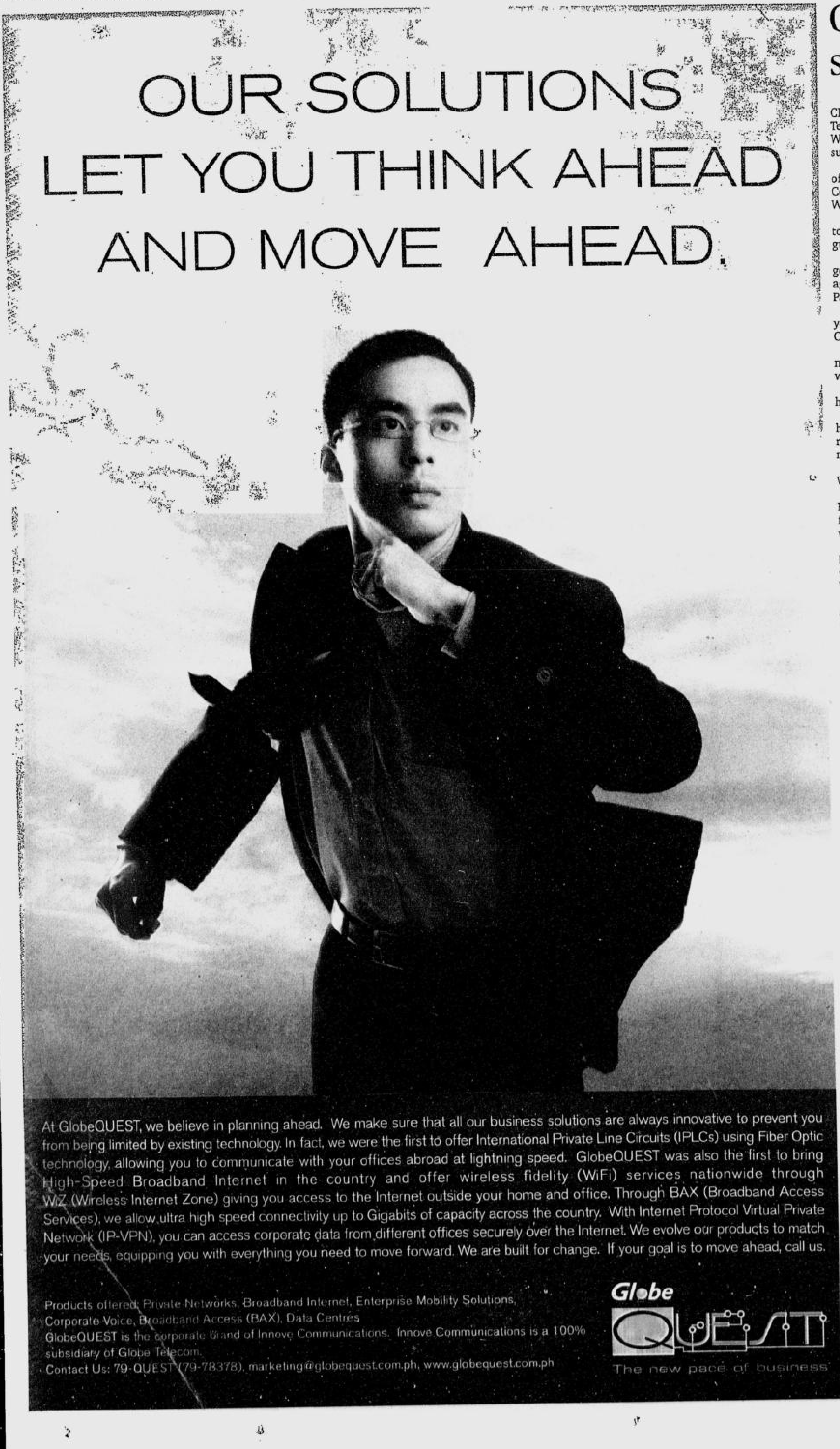
Jenny said she was surprised that the suspects addressed her by her nickname in the text messages.

They also sent the messages to her new cell number "which only my family members and close friends know."

One of those she had informed about her new cell number three months before the kidnapping was her childhood friend Suzette Wang, Roldan's alleged girlfriend.

Wang has been accused of masterminding the kidnapping with Roldan, a charge she has denied. But she remains at large.

Roldan, whose real name is Mitchell Gumabao, has also denied the allegations against him.



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Give up now, suspect urged

CITIZENS ACTION AGAINST CRIME HEAD Teresita Ang-See yesterday asked Suzette Wang's younger brother to convince her to surrender to the police.

Accused of masterminding the kidnapping of a 3-year-old boy with actor and former Congressman Dennis Roldan in February, Wang remains at large.

"We are asking him to encourage his sister to surrender. Flight is a definite evidence of guilt," Ang-See said.

She and Wang's brother attended the ongoing hearing on the kidnapping case against Roldan, Wang and five others at the Pasig City Regional Trial Court yesterday.

The seven are accused of kidnapping a 3-year-old Filipino-Chinese boy in February. Only Wang remains at large.

But the brother, who asked not to be named, told the INQUIRER he had no idea where his sister was.

"I don't have any communication with her," he said.

Asked why he had been attending the hearings, he said he wanted to "find out the real reason why she is being accused of kidnapping."

The boy's father Roger Yu has also asked Wang to appear in court.

"She earlier said she would see us in court. But where is she now? Why is she not defending herself?" he said in an earlier interview.

Pasig City RTC Branch 261 Judge Agnes Reyes-Carpio has already issued an arrest warrant and a hold departure order against Wang.

But rumors have reached some of her co-accused that Wang has already left the country.

Yu said the national police is offering a P300,000 reward for any information on her whereabouts. His family is also offering a P250,000 reward.

Ang-See told reporters the number of kidnappings in the country has gone up this year compared to 2004.

Without showing any figures to back her claim, she said that "this year is really bad (in terms of kidnapping)." *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Counterfeit gangs exporting fake US dollars

By Margaux C. Ortiz

PROUDLY PHILIPPINE-MADE?

Local syndicates involved in the printing of fake US dollar bills are reportedly exporting their products, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said yesterday.

According to the bureau, the syndicates produce two kinds of dollar bills: Class A, which is smuggled abroad and Class B, which is distributed locally.

"Members of the syndicates use class B dollars to victimize establishments and shoppers locally while high quality bills are smuggled to other countries," NBI National Capital Region (NCR) executive officer Rosauro Bautista said in an interview.

Bautista added that they have already identified the location of the printing press where the fake dollars are being manufactured.

"We are now conducting follow-up operations," she said.

The NBI seized $100 million in fake treasury notes and $80,000 in counterfeit dollars from two alleged members of a counterfeiting syndicate during a buy-bust operation at SM Las Piñas last Dec. 7.

NBI NCR chief Regional Director Ruel Lasala said that based on initial information, the bills came from Mindanao.

Bautista reminded the public that real bills have several distinguishable security features like the optical variable ink at the lower right corner of the bill.

"The numeral of a real bill changes its color from green to black when tipped to one side while a fake bill's does not," she said.

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
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SPORTS TV

BASKETBALL: NBA – Nets vs Wizards; 8 a.m. (r-7 p.m.); Heat vs Bulls; 9:30 p.m.; Sports Plus; Clippers vs Spurs; 9:30 a.m. (r-5:30 p.m.); Solar Sports–New Jersey takes on Washington, Miami clashes with Chicago and LA faces San Antonio.

Compiled by L. Mangulat

Giants gun for semis berth anew

League leaders try to get out of steamer in key game against Sta. Lucia

DENIED PASSAGE TO THE semifinals twice, Purefoods Chunkee resumes its quest today, this time against Sta. Lucia Realty in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.

STANDINGS	W	L
Purefoods	9	5
Talk 'N Text	7	6
Ginebra	7	6
Air21	7	6
Red Bull	7	7
Alaska	6	7
Coca-Cola	6	7
Sta. Lucia	6	8
San Miguel	5	8

GAMES TODAY
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
4:40 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs Purefoods
7:25 p.m.—Red Bull Barako vs Air21

Pressure has mounted on coach Ryan Gregorio and the Giants, though, after they absorbed back-to-back losses for the first time this season.

Talk 'N Text held back Purefoods in overtime last week at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City, before the revitalized San Miguel Beermen, riding the momentum of a two-game win streak, cut the Giants to size, also at the same arena.

But more than their jinx at the Ynares Center, the Giants lacked that extra finishing kick to turn their fortunes around. In their last two games, the Giants also showed they could not sustain their offense as James Yap, Noy Castillo, Kerby Raymundo and Marquin Chandler hit their strides intermittently.

A victory tonight would give the pacesetting Giants (9-5) at least a tie for an automatic semifinal berth. The top two finishers after the 16-game classification get the perk outright.

Purefoods has not barged into the semifinals since the 2002 Governors Cup, which the franchise eventually won.

While the Giants have two more chances to make the semifinals without going through the wildcard phase and the quarterfinals, the Realtors (6-8) must win their remaining assignments to secure a respectable seeding in the next round.

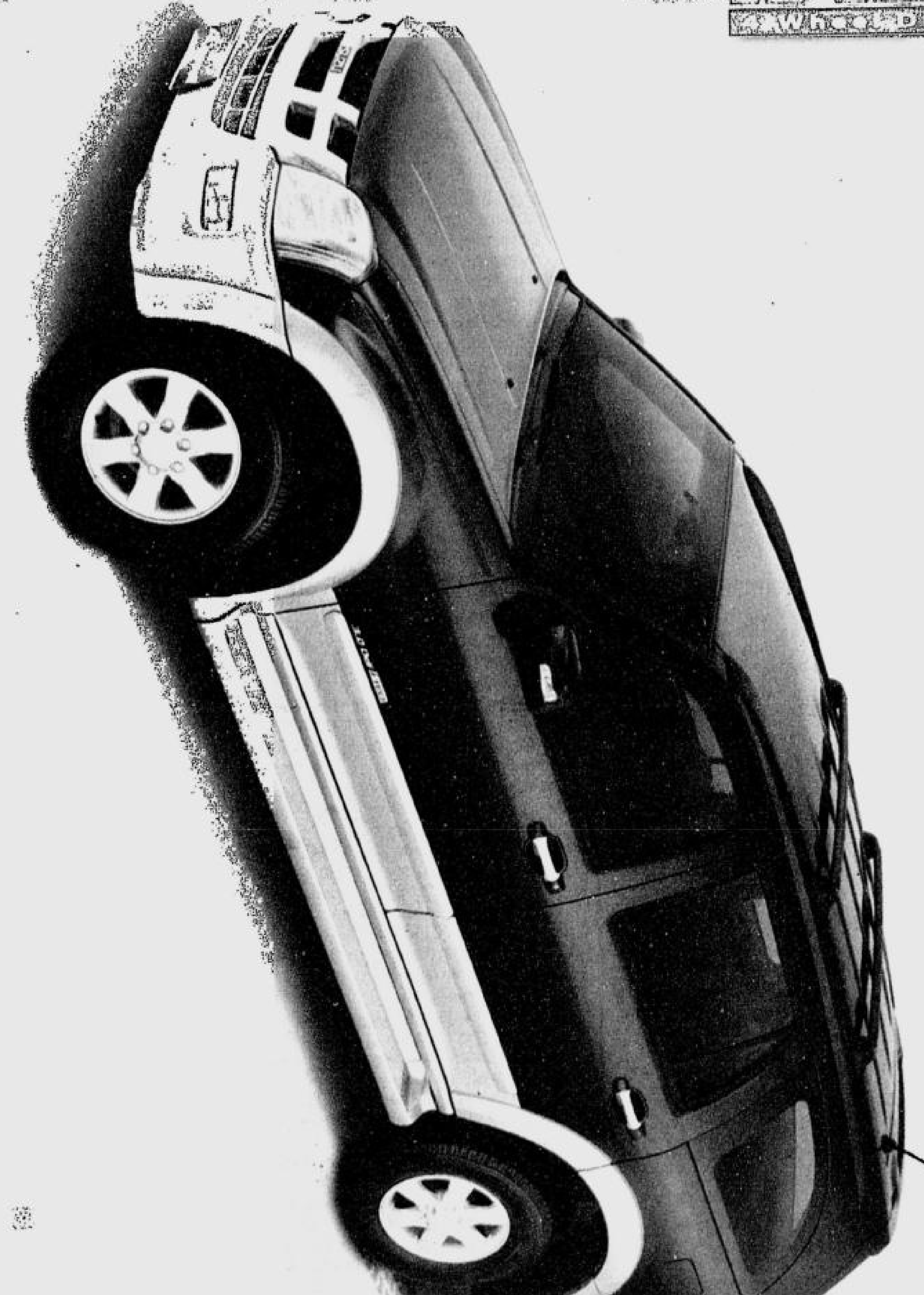
Damian Owens wound up three assists shy of a rare quadruple-double in Sta. Lucia's double-overtime win over Red Bull Barako last Friday. Pundits say that bodes well for the Realtors' late charge.

"The players should realize that playing 50 or 60 percent will get us nowhere," said Sta. Lucia Realty coach Alfrancis Chua. "We should push ourselves to the limit if we want to achieve something."

Sporting a 7-7 record, the Barako will try to erase the memory of that defeat when they take on the Air21 Express in the other game. The Express are tied for second with Talk 'N Text and Barangay Ginebra with a 7-6 slate.

Ranidel De Ocampo silenced a pro-Ginebra crowd during a provincial sortie in Ormoc City over the weekend by scoring nine of Air21's last 12 points to finish off the Kings. *June Navarro*

PUREFOODS needs Paul Artadi's razzle-dazzle play against Sta. Lucia today. AUGUST DELA CRUZ



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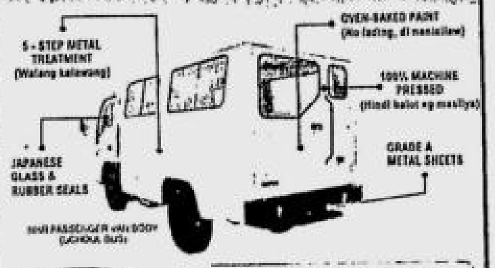

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Manila raises curtains on 3rd Para Games today

HOPING TO BUILD ON THE SUCCESS OF THE Philippine campaign in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games held here, the country's differently-abled athletes take centerstage when the third Asean Para Games unfurls at the Rizal Memorial oval.

Broadway star and internationally acclaimed singer Leo Salonga, who will sing the Games' theme song, spearheads a festive opening ceremony that will feature 1,000 dancers.

Philippine Asean Para Games Organizing Committee (Papgoc) chair Michael Barredo and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza are among the top officials who are expected to grace the opening ceremonies.

Also invited to grace today's event are Philippine Sports Commission chair William Ramirez and Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose Cojuangco, together with PSC commissioners Ricardo Garcia, Ambrosio de Luna, Leon Montemayor and Jose Mundo.

According to Manila Sports Council (Masco) chief Arnold "Ali" Atienza, chair of the Opening Ceremonies Committee, more than 1,000 athletes and officials from the 11 participating countries are expected to troop to the track and field oval to witness the kick off rites.

Besides the free use of facilities at the Rizal Memorial sports complex, the PSC has provided assistance to the Papgoc for the event co-presented by the PCSO, PSC and DPWH, and backed by PLDT-Smart, Systems Technology Inc., Pag-ibig, SM Shoemart, Philpost, Philspada, NBN-4, Manila Bulletin and the City Government of Manila.

American President Line, Pfizer Inc., Red Ribbon, Crossover 105.1, Sports Radio, IBM Computers, Mettaphione, GSIS, and various national government agencies are supporting the event.

Among the sports included in the calendar are athletics, swimming, powerlifting, badminton, table tennis, wheelchair basketball, goalball, chess, wheelchair tennis, and judo, while demonstration sports include sailing, boccia, ten pin bowling, and fencing.

DLSU eligibility case resolution 'out next year'

By Jasmine W. Payo

NOTING THAT THE INVESTIGATION IS STILL in the early stages, a member of the UAAP fact-finding committee said yesterday that La Salle's eligibility case will mostly likely be resolved next year.

"It's too early to say (what sanctions will be meted)," said Josie de Leon of Far Eastern University, a member of the five-man panel formed by the UAAP board after La Salle announced that two of its players submitted fake high school records to gain eligibility in college.

"Most likely it will be (decided) next year, We're not yet halfway. We have more people to interview. And we'll also be having a Christmas break, so it won't be (finished) this month."

Suspension from the league is among the possible sanctions La Salle could be facing. In 1994, Adamson was suspended for a year after investigation showed that the Falcons fielded Marlou Aquino despite academic deficiencies.

UAAP president Fr. Max Rendon said Monday there will be no verdict yet on La Salle's status in the league when the board convenes today.

Rendon and members of the investigating panel would not disclose details of the probe. The UAAP board, however, said three weeks ago that several key personalities allegedly involved in the case had been invited for questioning.

Heading the list were Mark Lester Benitez and Timoteo Gatchalian III, the two Archers found to have submitted fake certificates of their Philippine Educational Placement Test, an exam taken mostly by out-of-school youths to gain college entry.

Also summoned were assistant team manager Manny Salgado and statistician Raul Lacson, tagged by La Salle in its own probe as the officials who helped secure the players' spurious documents. Both, however, denied the allegations.

CHAMPS: The victorious Staglets (from left) Raphael Carlo Reyes, Eric Carlo Salamat, Ryan Buenafe, Paul John Lee and John Murphy Raymundo with PBA leged Alvin Patrimonio.

SSC tops LeBrons House tilt

UNDERMANNED SAN SEBASTIAN College stunned San Beda, 39-33, in overtime to rule the recent LeBrons House Tournament 5-on-5 baller challenge at the Rockwell Tent in Makati City.

Rafael Reyes presided over San Sebastian's romp, nailing a buzzer-beating 3-pointer to force overtime at 25-all, and then delivered two more triples in the extension to seal San Beda's fate.

San Sebastian finished the regulation period with only four players after a Staglets fouled out. The team was further reduced to three players when another Staglet fouled out with 38 seconds to go.

The Staglets, however, held on to thwart the Red Cubs, whom they also beat for this years' NCAA junior title.

"The LeBrons House Tournament is a testament to Nike's support for the young Filipino athletes," said Deedee Pama, Nike's country marketing manager. "The honing of basketball abilities that these young ballers have is something Nike would like to continue to be part of."

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF JUNK ITEMS

DATE OF BIDDING January 12, 2006, 2:00 p.m., Solarium Hall, Bldg.-1 Grd. Floor, NPC-HO, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the following scrap and junk items located at various NPC stations.

SCHEDULE - I

Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1 Used transformer oil "PCB" Free, approx. 120,000 liters, located at Bataan Nuclear Plant, Napot Point, Morong, Bataan	P14.00/liter

Note: Interested parties who wish to secure bid form for the above items must be accredited waste oil processors/treaters and must present valid DENR Permit to Operate and Discharge Permit

SCHEDULE - II

Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1. One (1) lot, structure for dismantling Fabrication Shop surrounding structures, assorted scrap metals, construction equipment/tools, fabrication machines and other junk items located in the Fabrication shop	P3,324,000.00

Note: The sale shall include clean up of the perimeters of the fabrication shop and the surrounding structures.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S/ CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE OFFER.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2004) ORIGINAL OR XEROX COPY OF THE BIDDER
3. TAX CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE OF THE BIDDER

INTERESTED PARTY WHO WISH TO SECURE BID FORM MUST PRESENT ONE (1) VALID IDENTIFICATION CARD LIKE DRIVER'S LICENSE, GSIS ID, SSS ID, POSTAL ID, PASSPORT, PRC ID AND COMPANY ID.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P550.00/set from Mr. A. D. Alday, Manager, Warehousing, Inventory, Traffic and Asset Disposal Division (WITADD) at Bldg 1, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C. or call telephone no 922-8431. Deadline for issuance of bid form is 4:30 p.m. January 11, 2006

For the Materials Management Department

(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
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(PDI - Dec. 12, 13 & 14, 2005)

Now, no sorry diagnosis for RP sports

SO, SHOULD WE CONTINUE COMPLAINING about Go Teng Kok?

Look, Team Philippines won it because our national athletes, as a whole, did not start out like GTK who was gloating and beating his breast way ahead of everybody.

GTK alleging how many gold medals he already had in his pocket turned out to be a useful demonstration of HOW NOT TO DO IT.

All the other members of Team Philippines, including national training director Michael Keon, had to do was refuse to go the GTK way—*huwag una ang yabang*—and, true enough, the result was stupendous.

Team Philippines won the overall title of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games with a lot to spare.

Midway in the race, RP was already burping with medals, most of them gold.

* * *

Actually, Team Philippines started the campaign uncertain of how strong it was.

Problem was, in entering the field an underdog, the RP Team ended up surpassing itself.

When the race for gold medals hit its stride, RP turned the chase into a mismatch.

Everybody was a big winner and the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) also hit a winning homer by allowing itself to drown in the gold rush.

With the overwhelming triumph, PSA president Jimmy Cantor told the INQUIRER they plan to hand out plaques to the gold medal winners.

But the PSA awards night on Jan. 14 at the Manila Pavilion is meant to honor each and

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

every member of Team Philippines, the PSA prexy assured.

Everybody is invited, Cantor announced.

* * *

Nothing as grand had ever happened to Philippine sports, and the PSA should be excused for splurging with the grandest awards night in its 49-year history.

Truth is, your reporter here had also allowed himself to be carried away. Buttonholed by Raffy Tima of GMA-7 after RP had clinched the overall title, we said the triumph was also a tribute to the small people, the poor daily wage-earner who had to scratch the earth for a living.

Maybe his neighbors in the region could now reconsider and look at the Filipino, openly regarded as the sick man of Asia, with kindness and newfound respect.

The success of our athletes should also send the message that Pinoys are good not only as *japayukis* or workers in sweatshops abroad.

We are not sure if that line was original, but it had to be said because the Filipino success in the SEA Games felt truly good.

* * *

Many thanks to the private sector, which offered to foot the bill in several fields after the government cried for help.

Hail the silent heroes who contributed big, mainly by funding the training of athletes abroad, very discreetly.

Did we, for one, hear the name of Danding Cojuangco in any of the venues—although his firm, San Miguel Corp., had spent for national athletes in nearly 10 disciplines, including boxing and athletics, so these campaigners would be perfectly fit for the gold hunt?

Maybe the magnate was happy enough to have helped his cousin, Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose Cojuangco (take a bow, sir), steer the RP contingent to its greatest achievement yet.

You really want to know why the RP triumph feels this good? For the first time in many, many years, the campaign of the RP contingent did not turn out into another sorry diagnosis of national sporting ills.

Terrific. How to maintain the momentum and stay focused for the next foreign test, the 2006 Asiad in Doha, Qatar, should bare whether the RP success in the last SEA Games is genuine or a fluke.

* * *

(SPECIAL NIGHT: Herself in a win-win mode, concert pianist Leonor Kilayko gives a solo performance in an Evening of Art and Music on Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the residence of Juan Miguel and Charlene Escaler on 2270 Paraiso Street, Forbes Park, Makati. Glass works of Ramon Orlina will be featured. For inquiries, call 818-8154 and 889-9533.)

DAR BIARSP IX

INVITATION TO ATTEND PRE-BIDDING CONFERENCE

Rehabilitation of Municipal and Provincial Offices

The Belgian Integrated Agrarian Reform Programme (BIARSP) is a bilateral development programme between the Governments of the Philippines and Belgium. Its aim is to assist the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to successfully complete the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

BIARSP is currently on its third and final phase of implementation. BIARSP is regarded as one of the most important programmes for agrarian reform. It is highly regarded on account of its integrated approach covering not only agricultural support services but also education, public health and institutional capacity building.

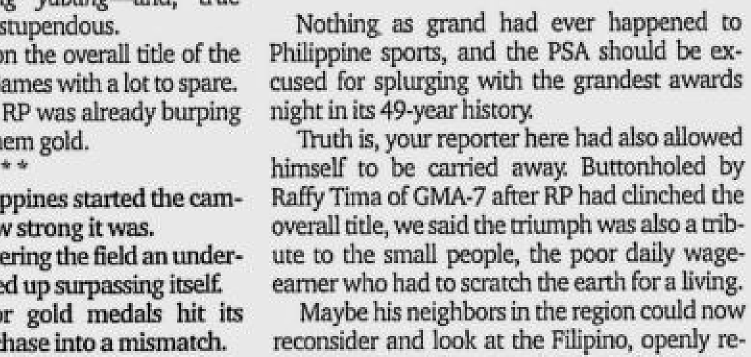
To further strengthen the programme's implementation, BIARSP supports its lead partner agency, the DAR, in upgrading the physical state of its field offices in regions 7 and 9 to provide conducive working environment for its staff and have efficient delivery of service. The rehabilitation of two municipal offices (DAR Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental and DAR Godod, Zamboanga del Norte with an estimated budget of PhP1,000,000.00 and PhP550,000.00 respectively) and two provincial offices (DAR Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay, and DAR Siquijor, Siquijor with a budget of PhP 2,280,000.00 and PhP 2,471,000.00) are found to be necessary.

The BIARSP-Technical Support and Coordination Office (TSCO) therefore invites eligible contractors who are accredited by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board qualified for retrofitting buildings between PhP 1,000,000 to 3,000,000 or with corresponding record to express their interest to bid for the rehabilitation of one or more of the said offices. Those interested are invited to a private conference on **January 10, 2006 at 9:00 A.M.** where all information regarding the tender will be provided to them.

Interested parties are requested to submit the following documents: company profile, description/ experience of similar assignments, 2005 BIR certification of registration and business permit during the private conference. For further queries you may contact us through any of the following:

E-mail	tsco@biarsptsco.org
Post	BIARSP – TSCO, 2nd Floor Sol Y Mar Bldg. Cor. Rizal Blvd. – San Juan Street Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental
Fax	(035) 422-7736
Tel. #s	(035) 225-5929; 225-5930; 225-8681; and 422-7459
Contact Person	Joost Evers, TA-OD

(PDI–Dec. 14 & 18, 2005)



NATIONAL DUATHLON: The Clark Development Corp. has agreed to host the 2000 National Duathlon Championship set Dec. 18 at Clark Field in Pampanga. The sponsorship agreement for the major sports tourism event in the area was signed recently by Triathlon Association of the Philippines president Tom Carrasco Jr., and CDC president Antonio Ng. TRAP secretary general Mon Marchan, race organizer Melvin Fausto of CMG, CDC senior media relations officer Eric Jimenez and customer service manager Frank Madlangbayan witnessed the signing.

Seven cage teams make Tiong Lian Cup roster

THE METRO MANILA TIONG LIAN Basketball Association (MMTLBA) celebrates its 30th season with the Hitachi Tiong Lian Cup starting Jan. 7 next year at the St. Stephen's High School gym.

Defending champion St. Stephen's leads the field of seven teams in the league considered as the Filipino-Chinese version of the NCAA junior tournament.

The other teams are Xavier, Uno, Chiang Kai Shek, Grace Christian, St. Jude and Hope Christian.

St. Stephen beat Xavier, 2-1, in last year's best-of-three series for its eighth title in the league which has produced top-caliber players like Atoy Co, Lim Eng Beng, Sonny Co, Alex Tan and Kenneth Yap, who later emerged as standouts in the NCAA and UAAP.

Overall, CKS has the most number of titles with 13.

SPORTSWATCH

Makati 6-cocker today

WTJ SPORTS AND AMUSEMENT CORP. PRESENTS the second round eliminations of Pamaskong Salpukan 6-Cock Derby at the Makati Coliseum today. As an early Christmas gift from WTJ, paying patrons may buy their tickets on a "buy-one, take-one" basis. Participants may field their entries in the three remaining elimination days on Dec. 17, 19 and 21, according to promoters Lito Orillaza, lawyer Rudy Salud and William Co. The guaranteed prize is P3 million, plus a brand new Toyota Innova. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.

NCA derby finals up

FIRST-CLASS COCKFIGHTING ACTION RESUMES at the air-conditioned San Juan Coliseum today as the National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-cock derby championship round gets under way with no less than 60 fights on tap. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Longshot entries Jade Resort Julianne of Arman Santos and SJC of Boy Royo lead the field with three wins each, while Pichay Spartan II of Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay and Jimafer Mapalad of Jingco Brothers have 2.5 points apiece. For inquiries, call 0918-2620338 or 725-5369.

Big Pasay tilt set Dec. 16

DERBY CHAMPIONS FROM METRO MANILA AND nearby provinces converge anew at the Pasay City Cockpit on Friday and Sunday for the annual Pasko Sa Pasay 5-cock derby, which stakes a guaranteed cash pot of P1 million. Pit manager Eric dela Rosa said this is the first time that a big derby will be held on a Sunday at the PCC to avoid conflict of schedules with other cockpits and maintain harmonious relation with operators. The derby will be supported by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and requires a P10,000 entry fee. For cockhouse reservations and other inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 or 816-6750.

P56 million needed to scale Mt. Everest

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

I'VE ALWAYS dreaded motoring from Quezon City to Makati, especially at this time of the year when the traffic from one point to another is almost always monstrous.

This time, though, I took the risk. The invitation from Stratwork's Ginny Guangco said it was going to be "an intimate luncheon press conference" for Junko Tabei, the very first woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

Tabei had recently returned from an expedition to Mt. Apo with the FPMEE, the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition Team which had set its sights on conquering the peak in 2007.

"Please do do do come," read Ginny's text.

Because the invitation of the host sounded so sincere and because it was about three decades ago that I interviewed a mountaineer who had planned on scaling Mt. Everest but got nowhere, I decided to attend the presscon. Even if it was column day last Friday.

Actually, I was more interested in talking with the FPMEE than the Japanese lady mountaineer who had reached the peak of more than 100 of the world's tallest mountains.

* * *

As expected, the traffic was monstrous. It was bumper-to-bumper all the way to Greenbelt III where the venue, NSG, is situated.

It took two hours to get there and another 15-20 minutes to hike from the parking area to the venue, where I had to climb several flights of stairs.

By the time I got to my final destination, my tongue was hanging, my throat was parched and I was suffering from hypoglycemia.

"Have you had lunch?" greeted our gracious host.

No member of the print media was in sight and the presscon was practically over.

Ginny guided me to an empty table, ordering the waiter to serve the leftovers: cold pizza which was now as gummy as the soles of my shoes and equally cold and gummy pasta.

When I ordered a diet coke (Because the sugar in the iced tea that was being served didn't go well with the system), I thought I noticed her squirm. She asked the waiter who ordered the Coke.

I thought she was going to ask the waiter to have the food reheated, at least.

Since lunch didn't look too appetizing, I decided to get the interview over with, even if I was experiencing hypoglycemia.

Besides, I noticed that the host was getting restless.

* * *

Former DOT undersecretary Art Valdez, leader of the FPMEE, said the team is prepared for the 2007 climb, "physically, mentally and psychologically."

The team has been to three Alpine environment, he explained, "so *matutuloy yon*."

It took the FPMEE 40 days to climb the 20,000-ft. Western Himalaya KR-5 in India and 35 days to scale the 22,000-ft. Mt. Cook in New Zealand. In the last expedition, only one of them—Leo Oracion—reached the summit of the 25,000-ft. Mt. Muztaqh Atah, which lies in the border of China and Pakistan.

"We are prepared. All we need are logistics," Valdez said.

The Mt. Everest expedition will require One million US dollars or about Php 56 million.

Considering that the recently concluded Southeast Asian Games raised only 160 million pesos, the expedition cost sounds a bit prohibitive.

"But only 50 percent of that has to be in cash, the other 50 can come in equipment and gear," Art said.

* * *

While climbing Everest seems to be an impossible dream for the Pinoy, the FPMEE head said they can do it.

"The secret is in working together as a team. We can easily adjust to any environment," he said, pointing out that the mountain has its own weather system and one cannot acclimatize to this until he gets to where the air is thin and gets thinner as the altitude gets higher—and where the winds could be as strong as those of Hurricane Katrina.

"*Kayang-kaya ng Pinoy yan*."

* * *

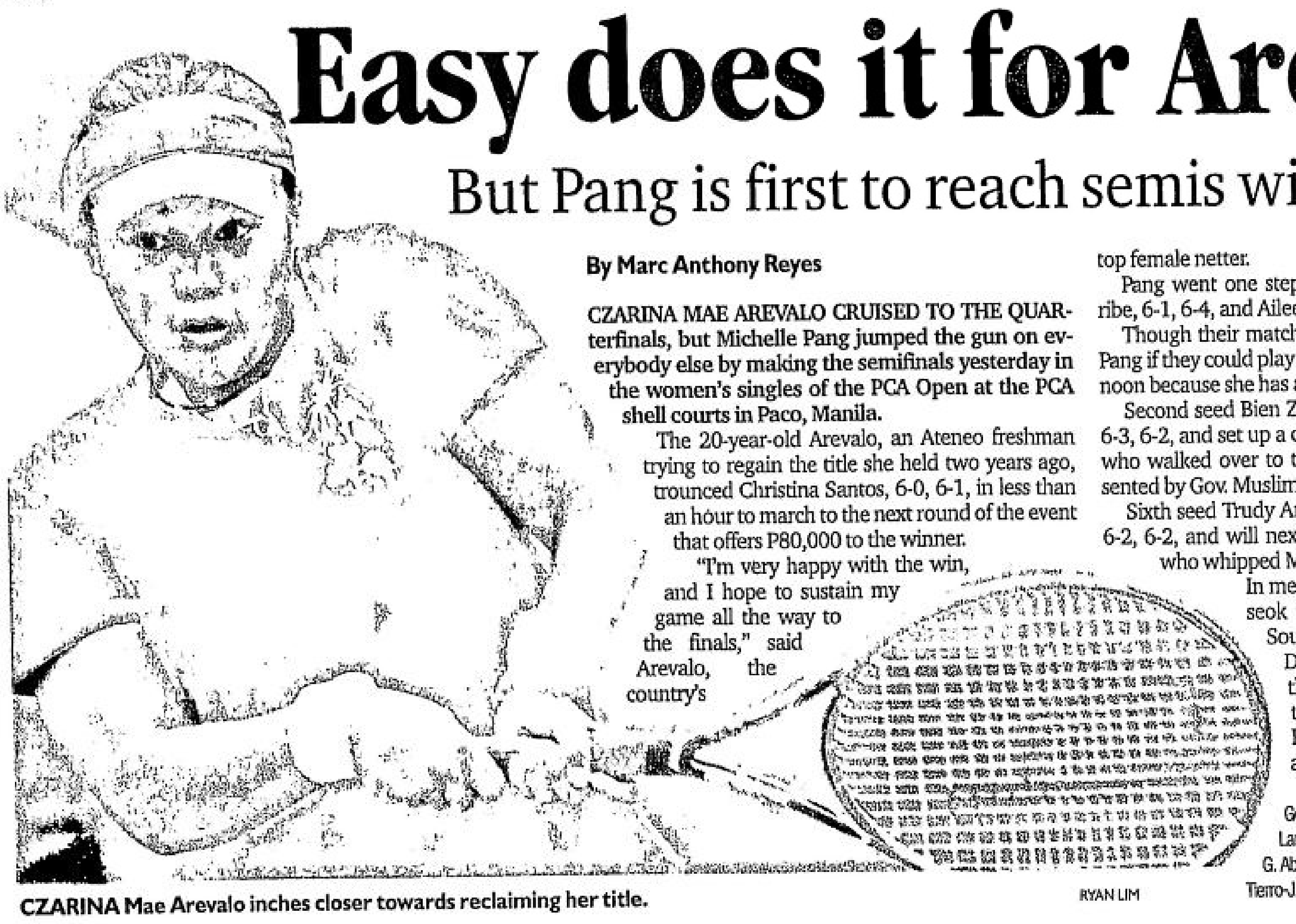
The interview was short. After having us sign the guest book, probably to show that this paper had been represented, Ginny stood up and said she had to hurry back to the office.

It took another two hours to get home. My column would be late. *Buti na lang* my editor was in a good mood.

I'll probably never accept an invitation to a presscon from a stranger again. Especially during the Christmas season.

Easy does it for Arevalo

But Pang is first to reach semis with twin kill



CZARINA Mae Arevalo inches closer towards reclaiming her title.

RYAN LIM

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CZARINA MAE AREVALO CRUISED TO THE QUARterfinals, but Michelle Pang jumped the gun on everybody else by making the semifinals yesterday in the women's singles of the PCA Open at the PCA shell courts in Paco, Manila.

The 20-year-old Arevalo, an Ateneo freshman trying to regain the title she held two years ago, trounced Christina Santos, 6-0, 6-1, in less than an hour to march to the next round of the event that offers P80,000 to the winner.

"I'm very happy with the win, and I hope to sustain my game all the way to the finals," said Arevalo, the country's top female netter.

Pang went one step ahead after beating Ofelia Arribe, 6-1, 6-4, and Aileen Rogan, 6-3, 6-3, in succession.

Though their match was set for today, Rogan asked Pang if they could play the quarterfinals yesterday afternoon because she has a school exam tomorrow.

Second seed Bien Zoleta yielded to Arra Micayabas, 6-3, 6-2, and set up a clash with fifth seed Alyssa Labay, who walked over to the next round of the event presented by Gov. Muslim "Wahab" Akbar.

Sixth seed Trudy Amoranto defeated Mary Ann Luy, 6-2, 6-2, and will next face fourth seed Bambi Zoleta, who whipped Melody Barraquias, 6-0, 6-2.

In men's doubles, top seed Chung Hee-seok Chung and Chung Hee-sung of South Korea bested Jun Moreno and Dave Cruz, 6-2, 6-2, to advance to the next round along with compatriots Oh Seung-hoon and Yong Bum-seo, who routed Ivan Santos and Raymond Villarete, 6-2, 6-2.

Other doubles results: Lee CH-You SH d. A. Gomez-O. Vilapaez, 1-6, 6-4, 6-0; J. Solon-R. Laroya d. L. Hipolito-S. Mella, 6-2, 6-0; G. Bautista-G. Abacan d. M. Narvaez-P. Olivarez III (walkover); PJ Tierro-J. Arcilla d. L. Clores-A. Hermano (walkover).

San Beda, Letran jins rule NCAA taekwondo

SAN BEDA COLLEGE CAPTURED THE varsity championship while Letran took the juniors crown in the 2005 National Collegiate Athletic Association taekwondo competition held recently at the SBC gym.

The Red Lions, led by tournament MVP Loreto Velasquez Jr., pooled 80.5 points to put away the title.

The St. Benilde Blazers finished second with 69.5 points, while last year's champion Letran Knights settled for third place with 42.5. The Philippine Christian U Dolphins finished fourth (39 points) and the San Sebastian Stags fifth (36.5).

Mentored by Victor Emmanuel Veneracion, a member of the coaching staff of the RP team that won six gold medals in the recent 23rd Southeast Asian Games, San Beda jins topped two other weight classes.

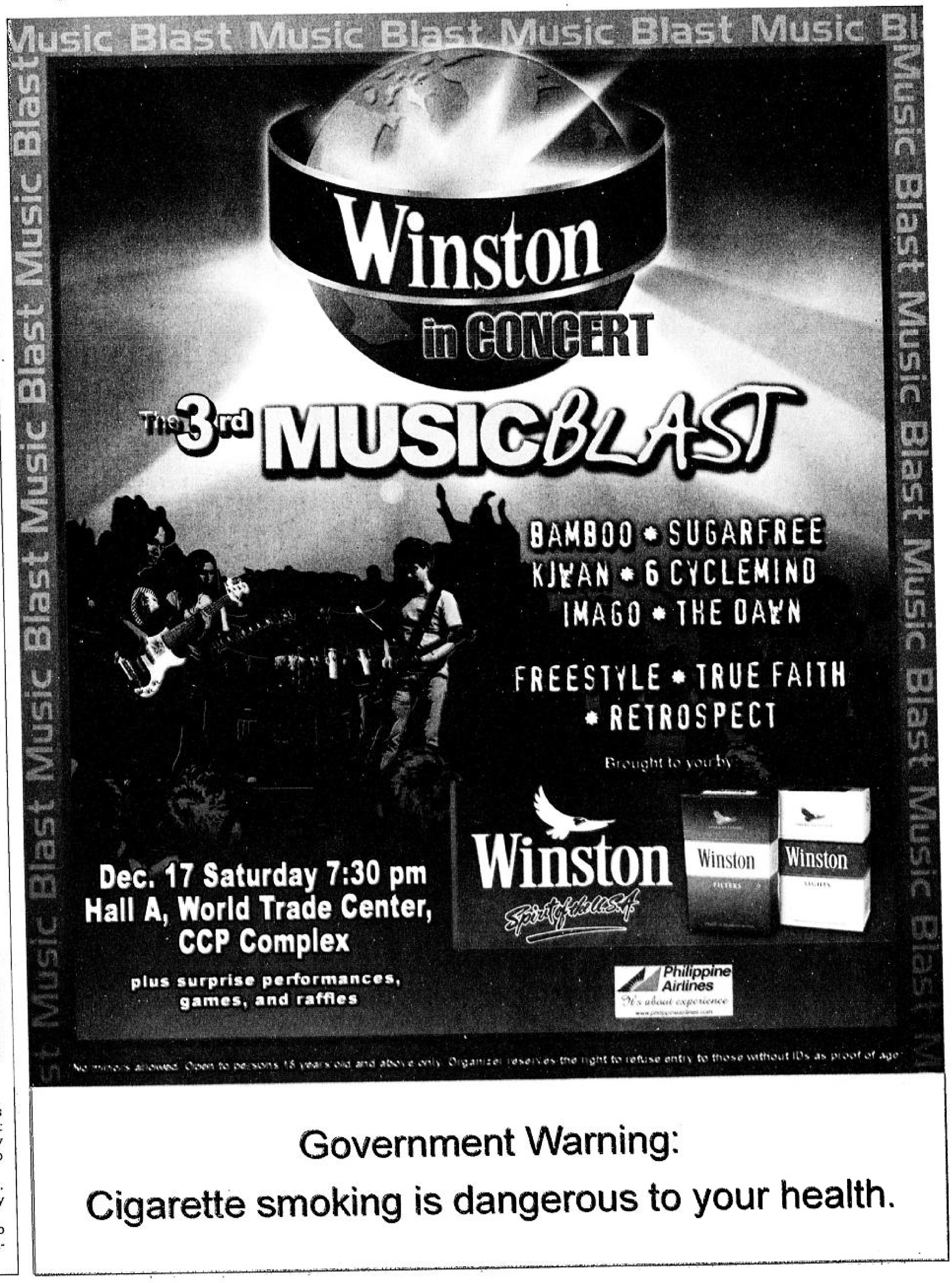
Aside from Velasquez who outclassed St. Benilde's Wyngard Morales for the lightweight title, flyweight Jose Manuel Enriquez and welter Gian Carlo Crisostomo ruled their respective brackets.

Enriquez defeated Mark Aguila while Crisostomo beat Letran's Adrian Rebuso.

The Blazers also won three classes through bantam Dominique Fontanilla, featherweight Christopher Manalo and heavyweight Joshua Basil Pimentel.

Other class winners were finweight Benedict Polloso of San Sebastian and middleweight Hayato Nihara of Letran.

The Letran Squires dethroned the La Salle Greenies in the juniors division with 87 points. La Salle finished second with 65.6 points, followed by the PCU Baby Dolphins (60.5), the San Sebastian Staglets (32.5 points) and the San Beda Red Cubs (26.5 points).



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Webber shines in Sixers victory

WEBBER REUTERS

PHILADELPHIA—CHRIS WEBBER HAD 27 points and 21 rebounds to lead the 76ers to a 90-89 overtime victory against the Minnesota Timberwolves in Philadelphia on Monday.

Webber scored the go-ahead basket in the extra period and also had a key block on a shot by Kevin Garnett that could have tied the game, helping the Sixers win their third straight.

"I want the opportunity to play that way every night," Webber said after one of his best games since leaving Sacramento to join the Sixers last season.

"I want to shoot that many shots or shoot them in those spots every night."

Meanwhile, in Miami, Pat Riley is again the coach of the Miami Heat, replacing Stan Van Gundy following his resignation for family reasons on Monday.

Riley, whom Van Gundy succeeded on the bench shortly before the 2003-04 NBA season, will make his debut on Tuesday when Miami opens a four-game road trip in Chicago.

"I will get back into this quickly," said Riley, the team president. He said he hasn't even looked at a playbook for two years.

In Indianapolis, Ron Artest wants to be traded, and the Indiana Pacers will try to accommodate their unhappy NBA star.

Artest, suspended for most of last season for his role in one of the worst brawls in American sports, said over the weekend that he wants out, his past haunts him in Indianapolis, and the team would be better off without him.

COMPLETE NBA RESULTS: Milwaukee 112, New York 92; LA Lakers 109, Dallas 106; Utah 92, Detroit 78; New Orleans 91, Phoenix 87

Pacers president and chief executive Donnie Walsh said on Monday he didn't like Artest speaking to the media first, but would try to trade him. He added Artest's desire to move on wasn't the only factor involved.

"This is kind of the last straw of a lot of issues," Walsh said, "and it's at the point where we should look for a trade."

Webber was 13-for-25 and played with the energy and determination he showed when he was a dominant player with the Kings for many seasons.

The T-Wolves saw their five-game winning streak snap with the loss, but Minnesota (12-7) still leads the Northwest Division by two games over Denver. Reuters, AP

NBA ON TV: Solar Sports features today the game between San Antonio and the surprising Los Angeles Clippers. Telecast starts at 9:30 a.m.

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Big field joins chair's tilt

AN OVERFLOW FIELD OF 700 PLAYERS IS SET to compete for prizes totaling almost P4 million in the 2005 Chairman's Cup tournament set Thursday to Saturday (Dec. 15-17) at the Masters and Legends courses of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Carmona, Cavite.

Most of the entries in the 18-hole tournament being staged in honor of MSGCC chair Robert John Sobrepeña are members of the club. Sponsors and other special guests have also been invited to see action in a separate division.

Six major prizes will be first staked as hole-in-one prizes on designated holes but will be raffled off in case they are not won on the course.

These include a Mitsubishi GLX donated by Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Inc. and Diamond Motors, a seven-night Alaska Cruise from Royal Carribean, two business class tickets Manila-Vancouver-Manila from Korean Air, a Wilson set of irons and a bag, a vacation package for two to El Nido and P100,000 worth of Samsung appliances.

Club Car and its local distributor is also staking a unit of its newly launched Precedent professional model as another hole-in-one prize.

Major sponsors are Nestle, MRT and Golforce, Starmaker, Rudy Project, Yakult, Newlife Center, Golf Shop at Baron Travel, Club Leisure Management, Camp John Hay Devco and Citibank.

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SONNY de Torres (left) drives his way to the Quick 8 title.

De Torres posts drag record

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—SONNY DE TORRES OF Group N Racing-Matonetics Racing posted a new record as he ruled the Quick 8 division recently in the kickoff leg of the 2005 Red Horse-PCSO National Drag Racing Championship Series at the BRC Drag Strip here.

De Torres, a 36-year-old Lipa City native, clocked 12.154 seconds to turn back Jeremiah Bernardo of Blanche Racing and claim the P5,000 top purse in this event held in cooperation with the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP).

De Torres then posted a new track record of 12.034 seconds when he also beat Bernardo in the battle for third place in the Pro division.

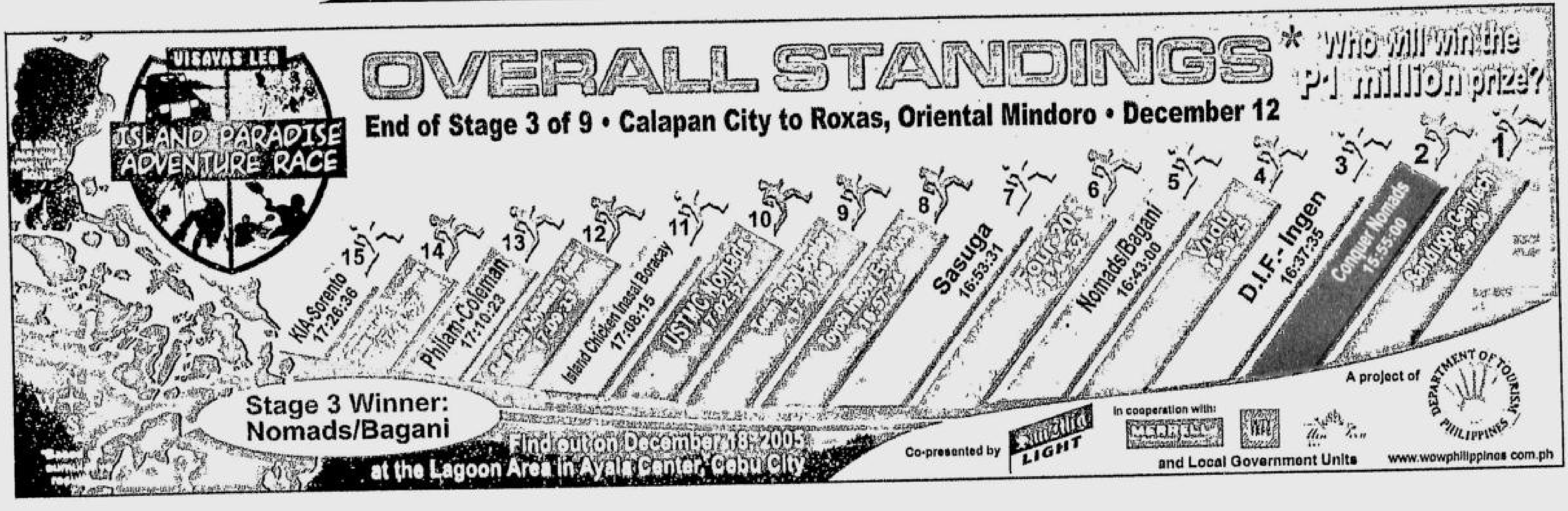
The rain stopped the race several times that organizers had to continue the competition the following day. But it was more intense this time with the brewing friendly rivalry between Group N Team and Blanche Racing.

Blanche Racing scored a big win behind Sheldon Chua, who bagged the Pro class plum with a time of 13.088 seconds, winning via a breakout over teammate Walter Pazon.

Bobby Cunanan of Just Racing emerged champion in the Sportsman division of the event sponsored by Red Horse, San Miguel Beer, PCSO, Petron, Sparco and supported by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Denso Spark Plugs, Casino Filipino, GV 99.9 FM and DaBest 98.5 FM.

5th KA ELIO
200

CHAMPS: Members of the Baliuag Mass V squad, which copped the Class C crown in the recent 'Ka Eliong' memorial and inter-town golf tournament at the Royal Northwoods Golf Club in Bulacan, pose with RNGC president Gerardo Pancho (left) and Loida Pancho, wife of the late Cornelio 'Ka Eliong' Pancho, founder of the Ka Eliong Foundation, during the awards rites. They are (third from left) George Ong, Sonny Robes, Romeo Lee and Alex Co.



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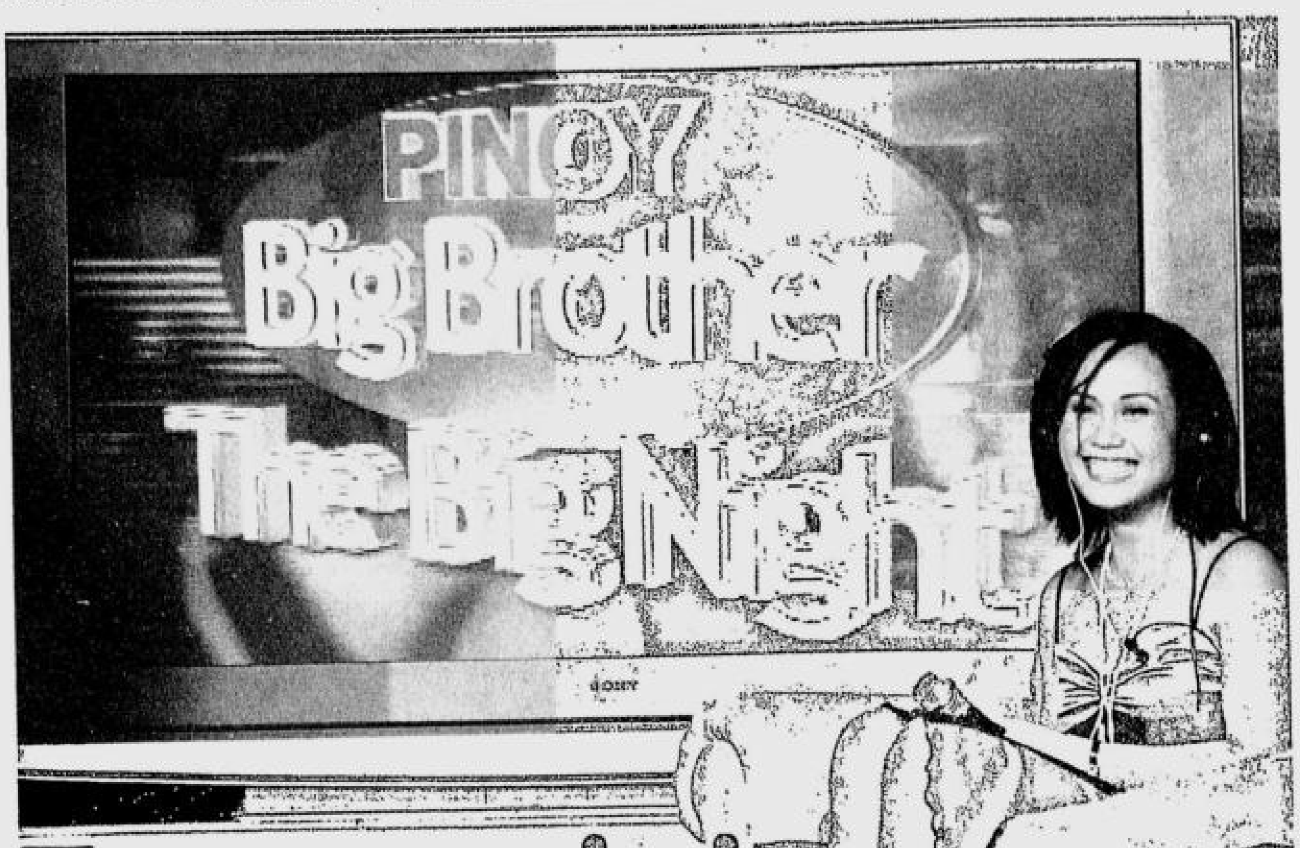


THE WINNER is Jennivev "Nene" Tamayo.

Free again!

The final 4 PBB housemates on their night of triumph

By Nini Valera
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

THE FIRST PERSON that "Pinoy Big Brother" housemate Nene Tamayo searched the audience for, minutes after she was declared top winner of the reality TV show last Saturday night, was her mother, Maria Bally Tamayo.

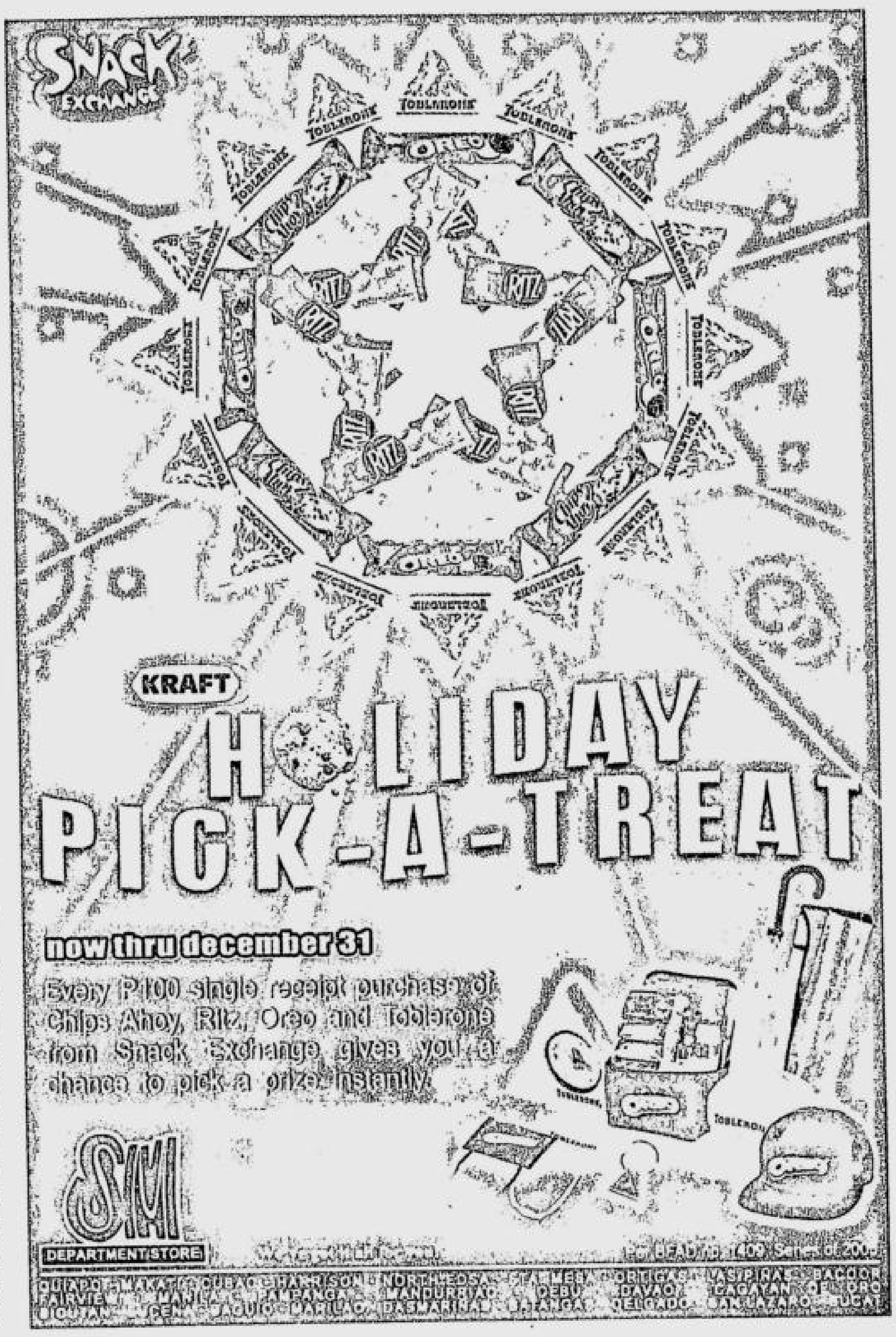
Nene, 24, practically jumped off the stage at the Clark Expo in Pampanga to hug her mother, from whom she had been estranged for several years. She also picked up her youngest brother, Jefferson, and carried him up the stage to point out to him the Nissan Frontier that was part of the P6 million in cash and prizes that she had won.

The lass from Romblon, who once dreamed of becoming the first female general in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, also won a P2-million house and lot, a P2-million franchise from Ink for Less, a home appliance showcase, and P1-million cash from ABS-CBN, which airs "Pinoy Big Brother."

"I'd like to start (my life) all over again," she told INQUIRER Entertainment on Saturday. "I'd like to make my parents proud of me."

Apparently, what endeared Nene to the PBB viewers was her palpable pain from being estranged from her mother, which was captured by the 26 cameras grinding 24/7 inside the PBB house. Several scenes of PBB showed how much Nene longed to reconcile with her mother. "The last time my mother hugged me was when I was 7," she said during one of the episodes. In another instance, she recounted, "I left the house when my mother told me she would no longer send me to school. That was it. I

FREE/ A2-2



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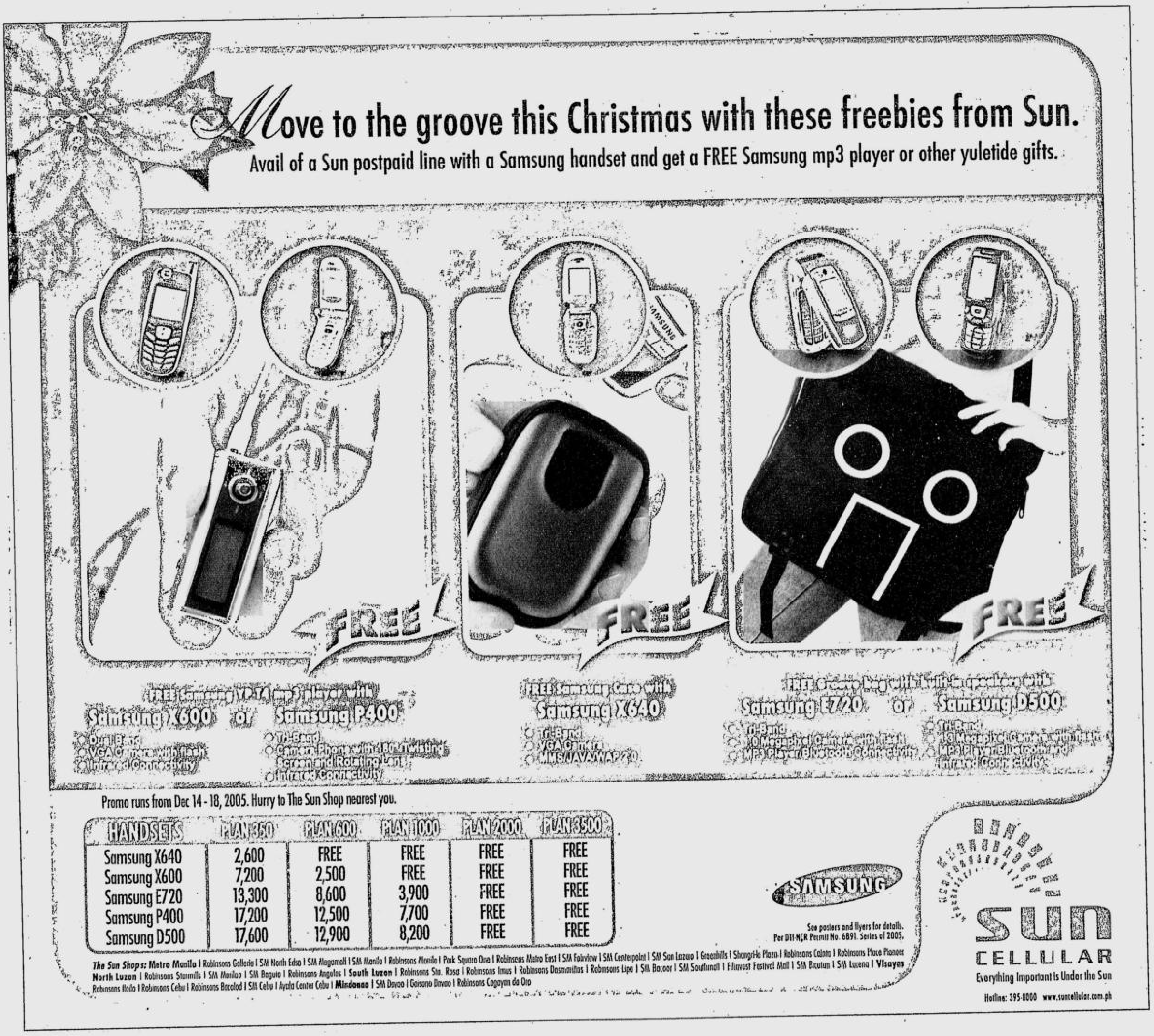

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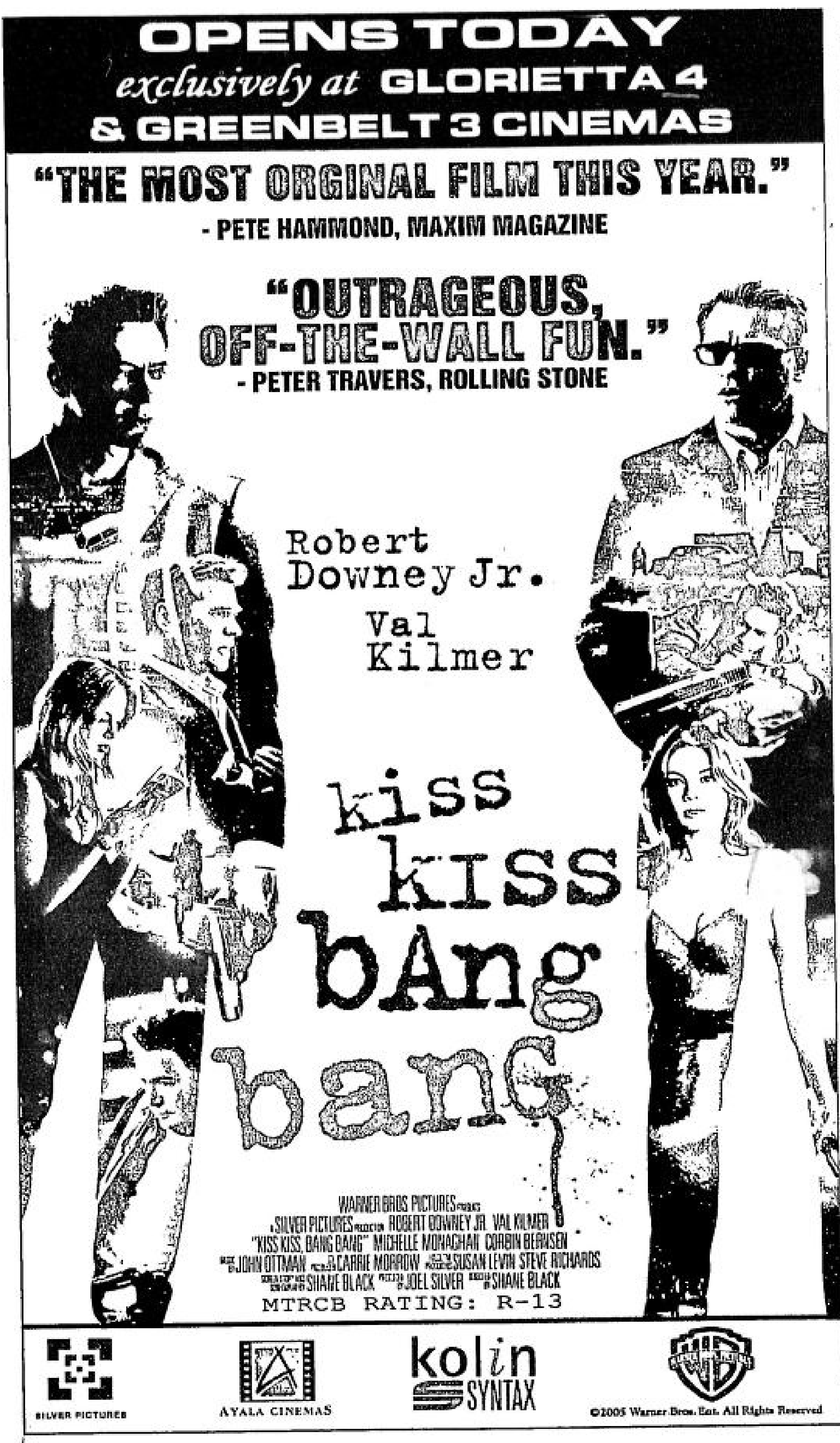
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WHAT a crowd that turned up at the Clark Expo Pampanga, where the big night was held.

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From page A2-1

[have taken] care of myself since then."

Nene's pain tugged at the heart of millions of PBB viewers; her leadership qualities and toughness awed and inspired them. In one episode, Nene was shown climbing a coconut tree in the backyard of Big Brother's house to fulfill one of the tasks assigned to the housemates. Thus, the frail-looking Nene was christened "Kumander" and "Nenergizer" by the housemates and writers for the show.

"I am a very determined person," she said, but admitted that passing the audition for the reality show had been a fluke. "I didn't exactly think I would win."

Her determination does not crossover into the realm of showbiz. Nene only giggled nervously when asked by INQUIRER Entertainment if a show biz career was among her plans.

FREE/ A2-3

HAPPY-SAD Uma Barum Khouny hugs sisters after he was called out. PBB helped him decide to stay in the Philippines.

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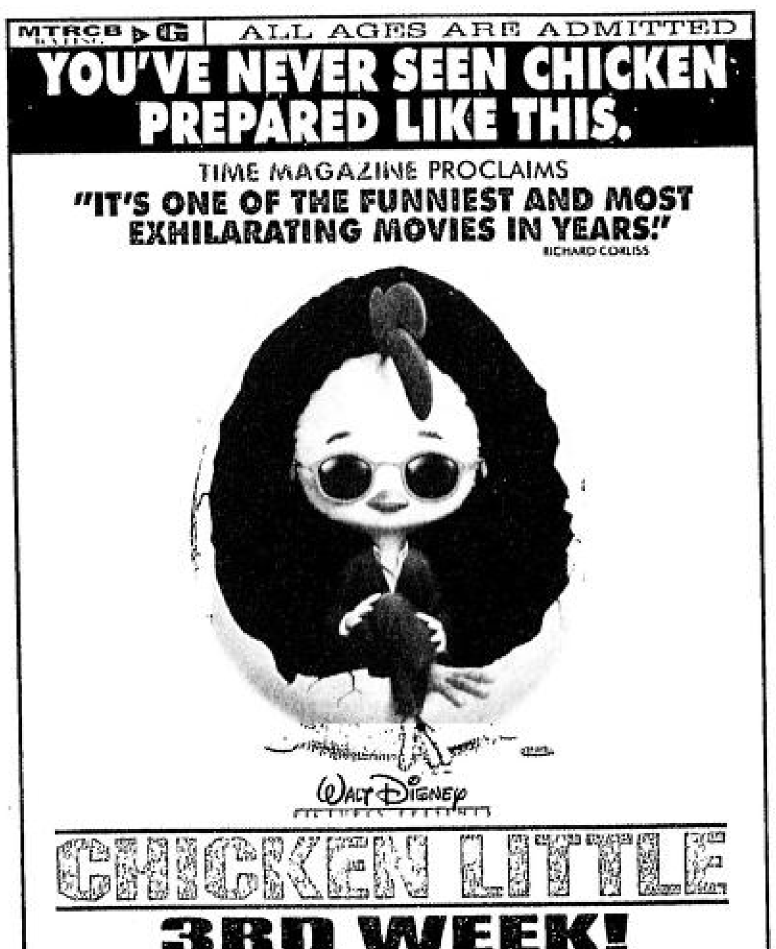
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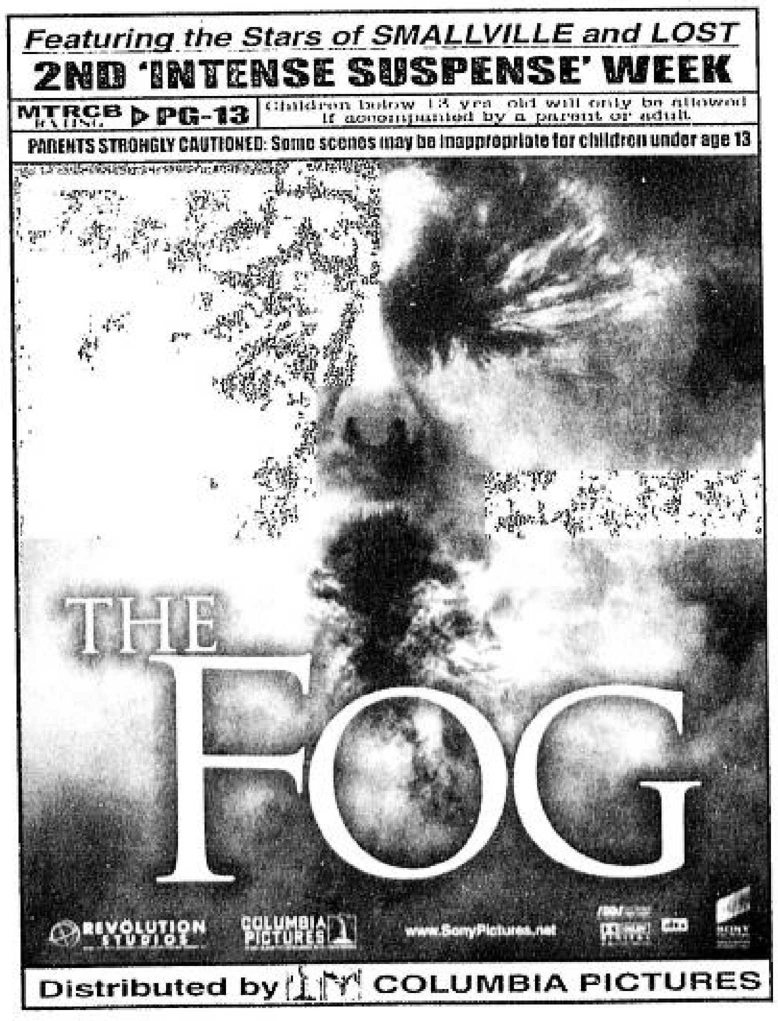
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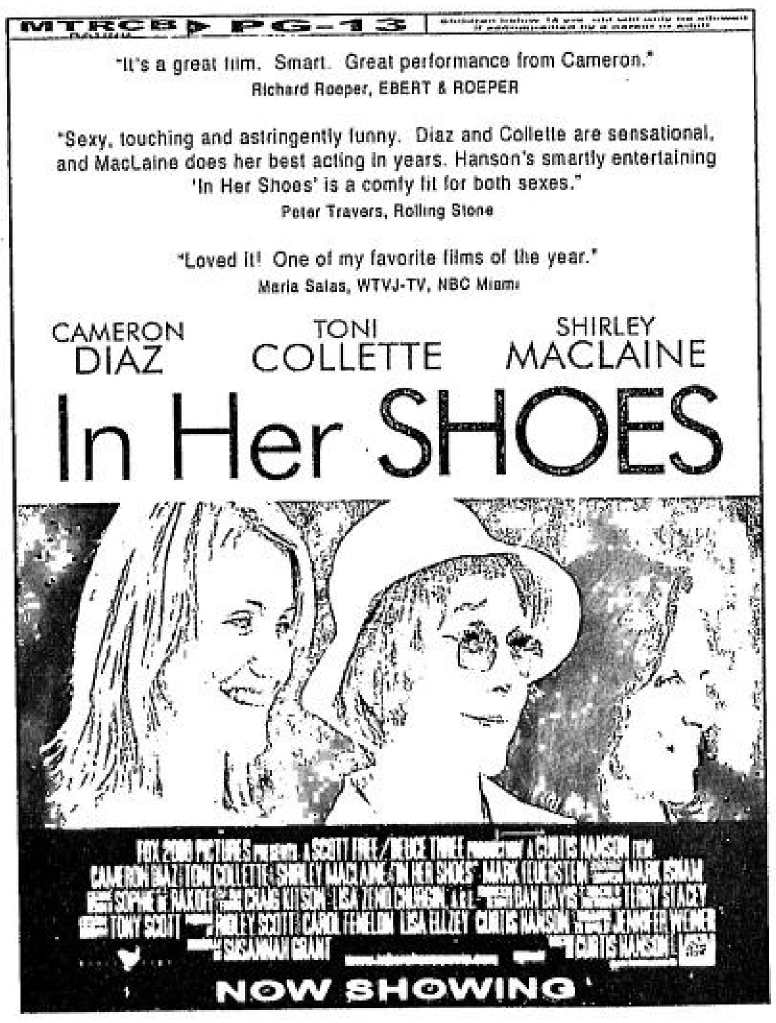
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Big Brother

NENE receives check from ABS-CBN chair Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III; her family looks on.

JAYSON Gainza is reunited with his family

SAM Milby and Say Alonzo

CASS Ponti with ABS-CBN president Cito Alejandro (left) and her mother

ABS-CBN
TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS ONLY

UMA Barum Khouny with his sisters, and Charo Santos-Concio

MARIEL Rodriguez, one of the hosts

FORMER housemates JB Magsaysay, Rico Barrera, Sam Milby, Bob dela Cruz and Franzen Fajardo

"Right now, all I want to do is to go home to Romblon and be with my family," she said. "It's been a long time since we celebrated Christmas together. It would be nice to do that now."

Jayson, second big winner who bagged P300,000 in cash, likewise wants to spend time with his family. The only married housemate—with two children—told INQUIRER Entertainment on Saturday that he would make up for lost time.

Speaking in Filipino, he said, "I'll pay off my debts. They have been piling up. The rest will go to the bank for my children's education."

Third placer Cass said she would pursue a show biz career. "Why not? I'm already here," she said. "Plus, I'd like to help other people." Asked if she meant to take her romantic dalliance with Uma outside the PBB house, Cass giggled and said: "We still have to talk about that. Right now, I just want to be with my mother."

Uma, who still had to get used to the strangeness of freedom after 111 days inside the PBB house, said he had come to the Philippines, his mother's homeland, a year ago "because I wanted to prove that I could stand on my own."

He has decided to stay for good. "Pinoy *ako*," he said with pride.

Finally face-to-face with Uma, whose sexual orientation has become an object of national curiosity, INQUIRER Entertainment popped the question: "Are you gay?"

"No," said Uma. "I am just a gentle person. I wear this headband to control my curly hair. I need a haircut right now."

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Head-spinning cycles of pain

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

CRIS PABLO'S THIRD adult-oriented digital movie "Bilog" spins into many dizzying directions which ultimately prove necessary, especially once one gets past its tableau of really unsympathetic characters. Through Pablo's trademark bluntness and penchant for non-linear narrative, it tackles the dark side of several gay characters' psyches. But unlike the *auteur*'s previous undertakings—"Duda" and "Bathhouse"—the new project delves into the mindsets of a number of straight people as well.

Cris Pablo's 'Bilog' tackles, through his trademark bluntness and non-linear narrative, the dark side of several gay characters' psyches

In "Bilog," Pablo's central character is named "Cris" once again, but is totally unrelated to its namesake protagonists in the previous stories. Played by Archie De Calma, this Cris is an enterprising gay man who peddles practically everything, from VCDs of sex scandals to the latest bootleg colognes and RTW. Also a matchmaker to several acquaintances, he's a master manipulator whose actions almost always lead to his financial gain. His friends include some of the passersby and nightly denizens of the Quezon Memorial Circle, who become entangled in his convoluted machinations.

REIVEN Bulado and Chamyto as friends in "Bilog"

REVIEW

The vignettes of several interconnecting characters often come off as either bleak or bland, made so by whiny, scheming or pushover characters such as government employee Rod (Rudolph Segundo), suicidal callboy Paolo (Reiven Bulado), female jeepney barker Unyak (Fanny Fan), and desperate young farmer Deo (Xeno Alejandro), among others. Young new actors lend realism to these personas, and while none of them really shines because of the split focus, many of them show promise. Ara Mina's short but effective turn as a mentally ill sibling of one of the characters, meanwhile, adds a memorable touch to the bigger tapestry.

The writer-director's strengths have always been his ability to create inner conflicts specific to gay people, and his kinky, unabashed handling of sexual situations. He still puts both to good use here.

One recurring problem, unfortunately, is the audio. Apparently important lines can't be discerned at times because of very loud passing vehicles [onscreen]. The movie could've been shortened too; it would've worked just as well without dwelling on some minor characters' scenes. And where is Pablo film staple Andoy Ranay? The thespian's fiery presence is missed. Still, "Bilog" delivers: the converging tales are carefully woven, and clearly establishes the tragedies of some players in the circle of urban life.

FEEDBACK

Not the same

Enrico Navea (enavea16@gmail.com), 74 Victory Avenue, Quezon City:

You are no longer the PDI that I used to know and have been buying since 1986. Since your tie-up with GMA 7, it seems that you are always siding with that network. Today, news of the first "Pinoy Big Brother" winner was not in your newspaper. Had that been a GMA 7 show, you would have headlined it.

You might have looked only in the Entertainment section. We carried the story on the front page.—Ed

Stern reminder

From Chizrei (chizrei01.yahoo.com), Antipolo

ABS-CBN got only four awards [in the Anak-TV Seal Awards]. A major network like it should do much better. We hope that this serves as a reminder for ABS-CBN to think more about the welfare of children and families in their program offerings and presentation styles next year. But aren't the top five female personalities, (or something like that)—Tin Bersola, Sharon Cuneta, Korina Sanchez, Bernadette Sembrano and Karen Davila—from ABS-CBN? Julius Babao and Aga Muhlach got awards too, right? How's that? Sounds so good, right? The personalities worth emulating are all from ABS-CBN. Wonder why there are none from the female personalities from GMA or other networks who made it.

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Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas
Grown Up Christmas List
I Offer My Life
Richard Merk
children's hour

The music industry should be producing albums by talents such as this one

Sleek surprise styling

SPIN CITY

"INNOVATIVE" IS HARDLY A word we might use to describe a collection of traditional Christmas songs. "Solemn," "moving" or "cheery" may be more like it. But "Merk Christmas," showcasing such staples as "Jingle Bells" and "Silver Bells" in a sleek surprise styling, allows us to stray into unfamiliar territory.

The key elements that make this little jaunt worthwhile are: 1) Richard Merk's fresh and liberating approach, 2) light-handed arrangements by Toti Fuentes and 3) the choir called The Fifth Gospel.

It's a wonder how working up the usual phrasing of the very same familiar lyrics can bring back the old fervor for the season: "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "The First Noel" sound brand new and compelling all over again. In the hands of these artists, "Hark The Herald Angels Sing" goes beyond rousing; it soars, as well it should, but in merrily unexpected ways.

The collection reminds us why, when Merk first broke into the scene over a decade ago, we announced without trepidation whatsoever that he was the singer to watch. We understand that he has travelled some bumpy roads but now, let alone voice quality, he deftly demonstrates a mastery of technique alien to many so-called recording "stars." The listener could almost see the space that Merk creates between notes, the better to reach the higher one gently, respectfully—although, when he gets there, it's hard to say whether it is abandon that he achieves, or surrender.

The local music industry should be producing albums by talents like Merk, instead of sundry novelty acts and "technological wonders" who are hard put to perform, live, even hit songs that bear their names.

Emmie G. Velarde

Ticket tape parade, at a lost for words and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXperience performing abroad. Did you learn a lot?

Guest: Oh, very much. It was an eye-opening for me!

(An eye-opening what?)

* * *

Host: What are the plans for celebrating our victory at the SEA Games?

Guest: One is a plan for a ticket tape parade

(Ay, ticket tape parade!)

* * *

Host: When you were told that you had won the contest, what was your reaction?

Guest: I was just... at a lost for words!

(So are we!)

* * *

Host: How do you compare movies now to what you acted in during your time?

Guest: Before, movies were much simplier!

(Ah, so...)

* * *

Host: What is the advantage of the Philippines in the field of tourism in Asia?

Guest: Our sights—the best sights only here can be found!

(*Baliktad yata...*)

* * *

Host: After your recent difficult experience, what have you learned about marriage?

Guest: Now I know why, because I know who!

(How ... profound?)

* * *

Host: What assurance do we have that your plan will succeed?

Guest: We have looked at all the angles, so you can rest assure.

(Uh, we're not so – assure.)

* * *

Host: Some people are not very confident about your company because it's new, it has no track record yet.

Guest: That's true, but the good people behind it show that we are a refutable company.

(And don't anybody refute that ... please!)

* * *

Host: What is this new spray good for?

Guest: It's effective in killing cockroaches and other household pets!

(No comment)

* * *

Host: You have instituted new safety procedures. How effective have they been?

Guest: Very effective—for months now, we have had no untowards incidents.

(Ay, untowards incidents *daw, o!*)

* * *

Host: How can a new business make it during hard times like now?

Guest: To make your mark in the highly competitive business world now, you have to have a stragedy!

(Otherwise, it would be such a ... tragedy?)

* * *

Host: Many people are disputing your views on the issue we're discussing on the show.

Guest: I know, but I am entitle of my personal opinion!

(Ay, entitle of!)

* * *

Host: What's unique about your *tiangge*?

Guest: *Simple lang: ang mga paninda namin, mumurahin!*

(She murmured!)

* * *

Host: What do you look for in a young singer?

Guest: Diction, placement and birthing.

(Not necessarily in that order!)

'The Family Stone'

THE ENSEMBLE comedy-drama, "The Family Stone," tells the story of a clan that takes a severe dislike for the uptight businesswoman (**Sarah Jessica Parker**) engaged to one of its fair-haired sons (**Dermot Mulroney**). When Parker's character meets the Stones, especially Mulroney's brother (**Luke Wilson**), the results are chaotic—and very funny!

'Derailed'

AFTER her stellar TV career—and the **Brad Pitt** chapter in her life—**Jennifer Aniston** has been acting in one movie after another. Her latest starrer is "Derailed," a film filled with deception, mystery and violence. The thriller's male lead is the magnetic **Clive Owen**.

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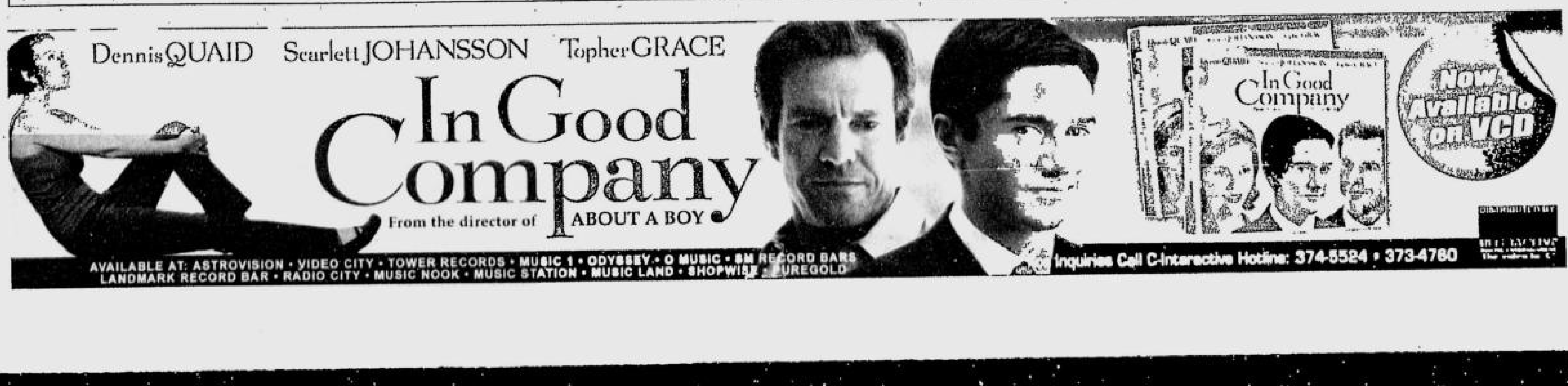
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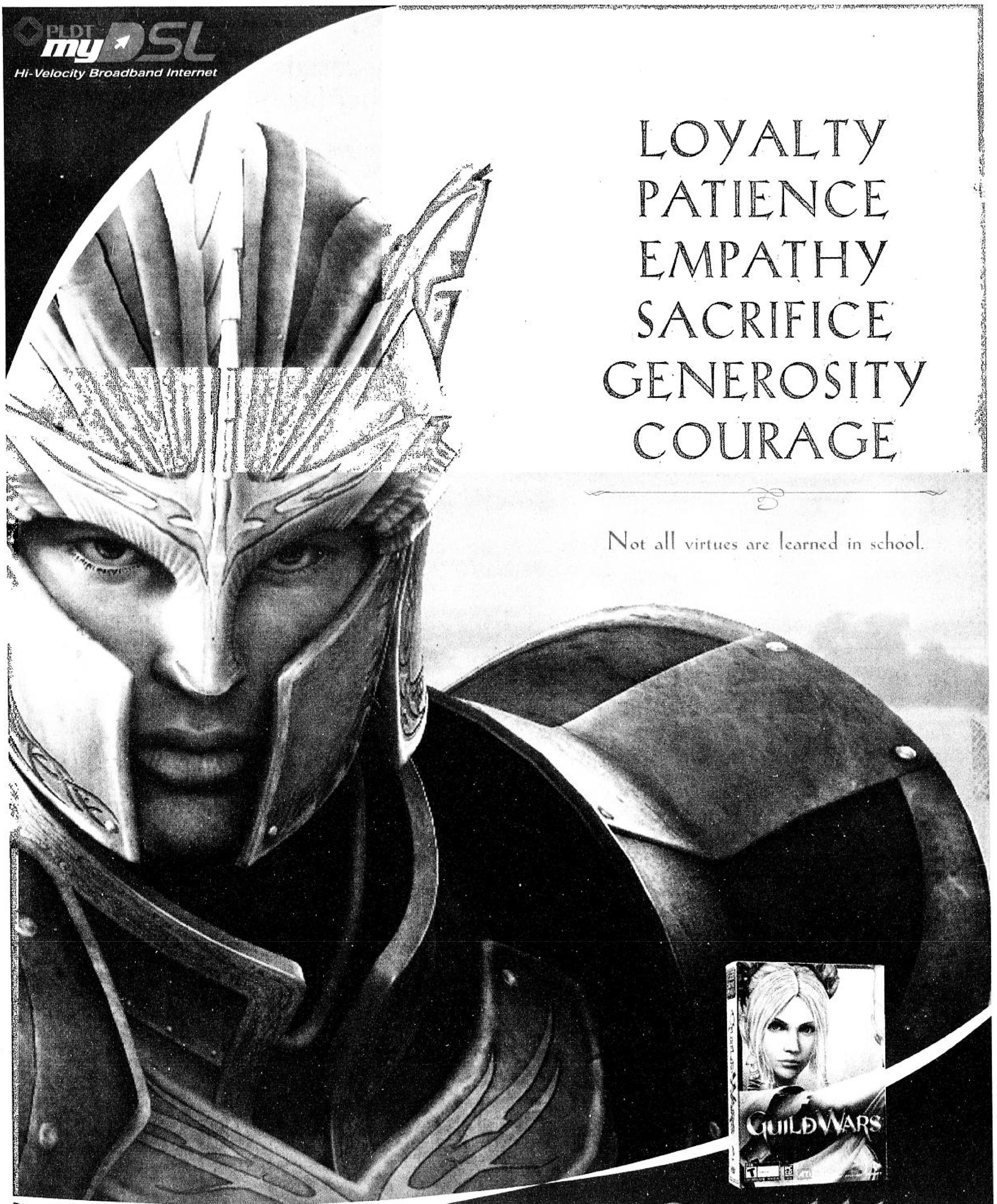

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Not all virtues are learned in school.

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'Maxi' movie makes money

Small indie film hits the big time but is set for showdown with 'King Kong'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IT IS THE YEAR OF INdependents, said Robbie Tan, Seiko Films producer and Cinemalaya monitoring committee chair.

Three indie films, originally shot with digital cameras and later blown up to 35mm film for theatrical runs, made decent showings at the tills, Tan said. "First, 'Mga Pusang Gala' earned P300,000 on its opening day. Then 'Masahista' made a little more than 'Pusang Gala.' Most recently, 'Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros' posted the highest first-day grosses at P800,000."

The feat of "Maximo," Cinemalaya Special Jury Prize winner, was confirmed by Ric Camaligan, first vice president of SM Leisure, which operates SM Cinemas.

Camaligan told INQUIRER Entertainment: "In SM Megamall, North Edsa and Manila, the film averages P100,000 per cinema, per day. In the first six days, it made P600,000 in Megamall. In the SM cinemas alone, it made more than P2 million in its first week. That's great, considering they only had 14 prints and no big stars in the cast."

Jessica Zafra reported in the Hong Kong Standard that the film earned P4 million in its first week.

Raymond Lee, ufo Pictures producer, credited the film's success to "healthy" word of mouth.

"Our daily gross in the second week is not much lower than our daily gross in the first week," he said. He noted that, "based on per screen average," the movie performed better than Hollywood flicks, like "Chicken Little," and the only other Pinoy film that opened the same week, "Hari ng Sablay," which had 40 prints.

While bracing for the opening of "King Kong" this week, "Maximo" is gunning for a third-week run in some Metro Manila theaters. "We are also currently showing in Iloilo and will open in SM and Gaisano Davao on Dec. 14," said Lee.

Bring it on

In a related development, Camaligan said SM is ready for more digital films, like "Big Time," another Cinemalaya winner which was not blown up to 35mm film.

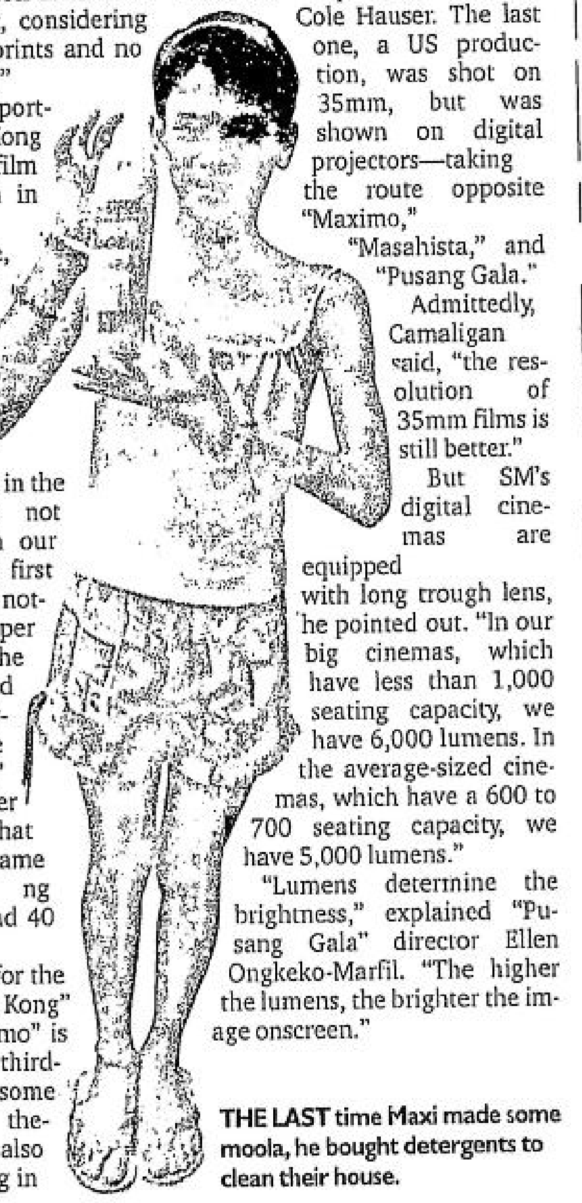
"'Big Time' will open next month," he reported. "SM now has a total of 10 digital projectors: one each in Podium, Megamall, Centerpoint, Manila, Southmall, Cebu, Davao, San Lazaro, and two in North Edsa."

Camaligan said SM recently showed digital films like Cirio H. Santiago's "Bloodfist," starring Monsour del Rosario, and Paul Abascal's "Paparazzi," starring Cole Hauser. The last one, a US production, was shot on 35mm, but was shown on digital projectors—taking the route opposite "Maximo," "Masahista," and "Pusang Gala."

Admittedly, Camaligan said, "the resolution of 35mm films is still better."

But SM's digital cinemas are equipped with long trough lens, he pointed out. "In our big cinemas, which have less than 1,000 seating capacity, we have 6,000 lumens. In the average-sized cinemas, which have a 600 to 700 seating capacity, we have 5,000 lumens."

"Lumens determine the brightness," explained "Pusang Gala" director Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil. "The higher the lumens, the brighter the image onscreen."



THE LAST time Maxi made some moola, he bought detergents to clean their house.

ELSE WHERE

Steven Spielberg's dream ends

LOS ANGELES—The dream of media moguls Steven Spielberg, Jeffrey Katzenberg and David Geffen to found an independent film and television studio to rival old Hollywood in the new digital age officially ended on Sunday.

But the trio that formed DreamWorks SKG in 1994 to wide fanfare, will remain major players in Hollywood. Paramount Pictures on Sunday agreed to pay $1.6 billion in cash and debt to acquire DreamWorks, producer of

STEVEN/ A3-2

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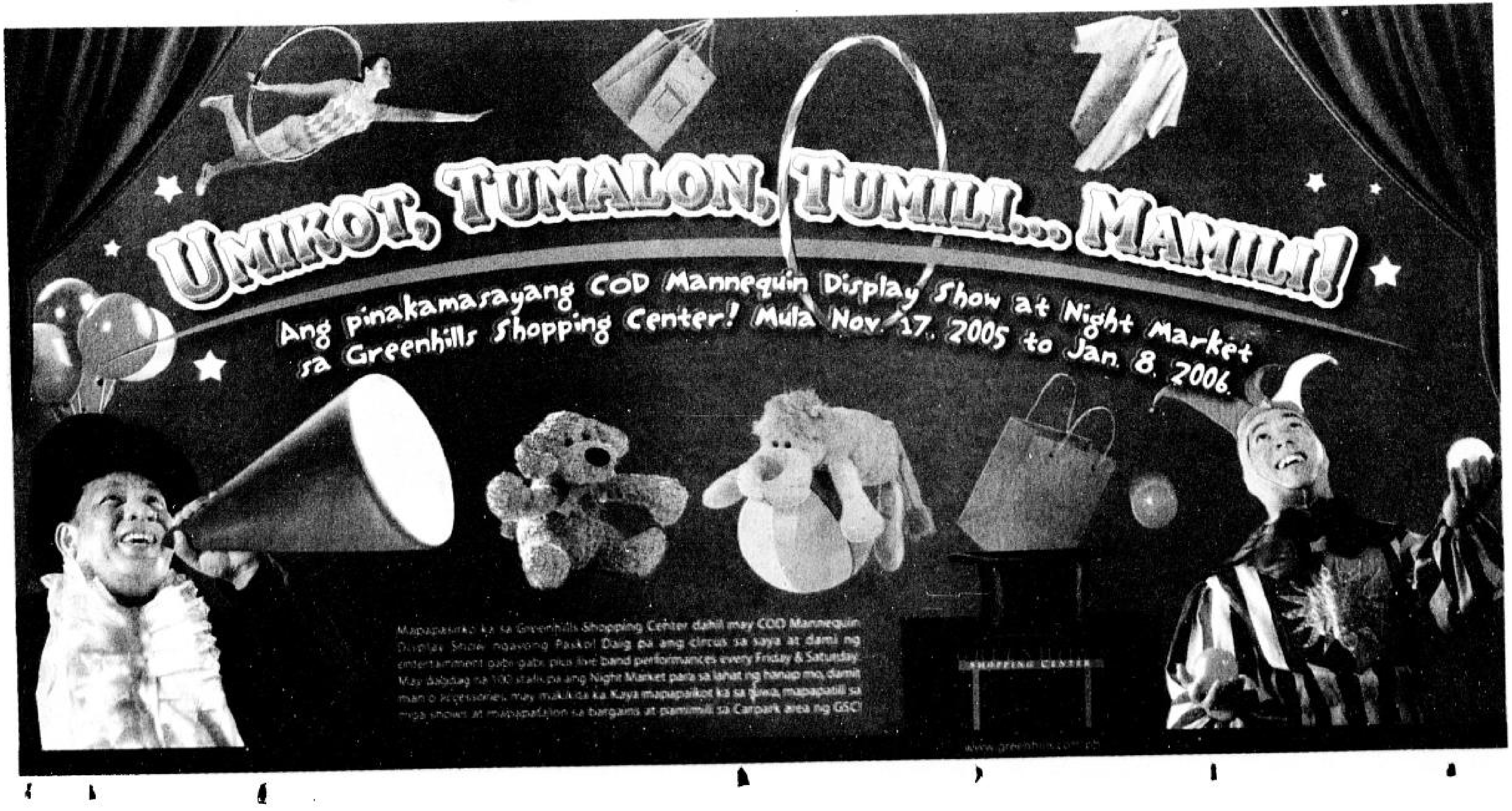

Mapapasirko ka sa Greenhills Shopping Center dahil may COD Mannequin Display Show ngayong Pasko! Daig pa ang circus sa saya at dami ng entertainment gabi-gabi plus live band performances every Friday & Saturday. May dagdag na 100 stalls pa ang Night Market para sa lahat ng hanap mo, damit man o accessories, may makikita ka. Kaya mapapaikot ka sa tuwa, mapapatili sa mga shows at mapapatalon sa bargains at pamimili sa Carpark area ng GSC!

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movietime SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

RED CARPET PREMIERE

AKO LEGAL WIFE
Dec. 17 • Megamall • Cinema 10

SHAKE RATTLE & ROLL 2K5
Dec. 20 • Megamall • Cinema 3

KUTOB
Dec. 20 • The Podium • Cinema 2

ENTENG KABISOTE 2
Dec. 21 • The Podium • Cinema 2

EXODUS: TALES FROM THE ENCHANTED KINGDOM
Dec. 22 • Megamall • Cinema 9 & 10

BLUE MOON
Dec. 23 • Megamall • Cinema 10

MULAWIN
Dec. 23 • North Edsa • Cinema 1 & 2

THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 KING KONG
10:15 FS/10:40MF/02:20
09:10LFS/09:40LMF/12:50END
2 KING KONG
12:10FS/12:40MF/04:20
07:30LFS/08:00LMF/11:10END

MEGAMALL
1 EXERCISM OF EMILY ROSE
12:15FS/12:45MF
02:50LFS/03:20LMF/05:25END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 STAGE PLAY -THE REVIEW-
RESERVE
2 KING KONG
11:00FS/11:15MF/02:40/06:05
09:13LFS/09:30LMF/12:35END
3 KING KONG
10:35FS/10:45MF/02:10/05:35
08:43LFS/09:00LMF/12:05END

SM MEGAMALL
1 EXERCISM OF EMILY ROSE
2 THE FOG
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
5 KING KONG
6 KING KONG
7 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
8 THE MYTH
9 KING KONG
10 KING KONG
11 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12 THE MAN

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 KING KONG
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
THE FOG
5 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 THE MAN
8 HARI NG SABLAY
9 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
10

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 KING KONG

SM VALENZUELA
NOW OPEN
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 KING KONG

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 THE MYTH
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 KING KONG
5 HARI NG SABLAY
6 THE FOG
7 KING KONG
8 KING KONG
9 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
10 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
11 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
12 THE MAN

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 KING KONG
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 KING KONG
4 KING KONG
5 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
6 CHICKEN LITTLE
7 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
8 THE FOG
9 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
10 THE MAN

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 KING KONG
4 KING KONG

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 KING KONG
4 THE MAN
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 THE FOG
7 KING KONG
8 MERRY CHRISTMAS

SM CITY MANILA
1 KING KONG
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
3 KING KONG
4 KING KONG
5 KING KONG
6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSEN
7 THE MAN
9 KING KONG
10 KING KONG
11 HARI NG SABLAY
12 JUST LIKE HEAVEN

SM SAN LAZARO
1 KING KONG
2 THE FOG
3 KING KONG
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
5 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
6 KING KONG

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SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 KING KONG
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 THE FOG
6 KING KONG

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 KING KONG
4 THE MAN

SM MOLINO
NOW OPEN
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 THE FOG
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

SM CITY BACOOR
1 THE MAN
2 THE FOG
3 KING KONG
4 KING KONG
5 KING KONG
6 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
7 KING KONG
8 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY MARILAO
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
4 APRIL SNOW

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 KING KONG
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 KING KONG
4 KING KONG

SM CITY LUCENA
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS

SM CITY CEBU
1 STAGE PLAY- THE REVIEW
2 KING KONG
3 KING KONG
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 KING KONG
6 THE FOG
7 KING KONG
8 KING KONG

SM CITY ILOILO
1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
2 RESERVED
3 KING KONG
4 KING KONG
5 KING KONG
6 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
7 RESERVED
8 THE FOG

SM CITY DAVAO
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
4 THE MAN
5 KING KONG
6 KING KONT

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 KING KONG
4 THE MYTH

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
1 KINGKONG 10:55, 2:45, 6:35, 10:25 GP
2 KINGKONG GP
3 KINGKONG GP
4 KINGKONG 1:50, 5:40, 9:30 GP

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
KING KONG PG13
KING KONG PG13
KING KONG PG13
KING KONG PG13
JUST LIKE HEAVEN GP
KING KONG PG13
SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898 1440-41.

SHANG CINEPLEX
① KING KONG MTRCB PG-13 12 15, 4.00 PM
② KING KONG MTRCB. PG-13 11 15, 3 00 PM
③ CHICKEN LITTLE MTRCB GP 1 20, 3 20, 5 20
KING KONG (PG-13) 7 30 PM
④ KING KONG MTRCB . PG-13 2 15, 6 00, 10 00 PM
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CINEMA 2 KING KONG PG13 12:35, 4:15, 7:55
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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 KING KONG PG13 12:00, 3:40, 7:20, 11:00
CINEMA 4 KING KONG PG13 10:50, 2:30, 6:10, 9:50
CINEMA 5 KING KONG PG13 11:25, 3:05, 6:45, 10:25
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM December 17, 2005 MISHKA ADAMS 8PM
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Araneta Center Leisure Guide
CINEMA SCHEDULES
Gateway CINEPLEX 10
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ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
P150 KING KONG
P140 HARRY POTTER
GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555
KING KONG
10:50 / 11:25 / 12:00 / 12:35 / 1:10
2:25 / 3:00 / 3:35 / 4:10 / 4:45
6:00 / 6:35 / 7:10 / 9:35 / 10:10
MERRY CHRISTMAS
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
KING KONG
1:50 / 5:25 / 9:00
CHICKEN LITTLE
JUST LIKE HEAVEN
...MAXIMO OLIVEROS
ALI MALL CINEMAS
① KING KONG 12:25 / 4:00 / 7:35
② KING KONG 1:00 / 4:35 / 8:10
③ IN HER SHOES
④ HARI NG SABLAY
⑤ THE FOG
ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
BARNEY'S MUSICAL CASTLE
Opens December 16
SPELLBOUND MAGIC SHOW
Opens December 25
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ROUNDUP

From fantasy to hard cash

Los Angeles—Another fantasy world has joined Hollywood's instant-blockbuster club.

Disney's "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"—adapted from C.S. Lewis' tale of enchantment, epic battles and talking animals—debuted as the weekend's top movie with $67.1 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Expanding nationwide after two weekends in limited release, the Warner Bros. thriller "Syriana," an oil-industry saga whose ensemble cast includes George Clooney and Matt Damon, ran second with $12 million.

Warner's "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," the No. 1 film the previous two weekends, slipped to third with $10.3 million, raising its domestic total to $244.1 million.

"Chronicles of Narnia" kicked off what is likely to be a strong finish for Hollywood after a box-office slump that has lingered most of the year, leaving attendance down 7 percent compared to 2004. Right behind "Chronicles of Narnia" comes Peter Jackson's remake of "King Kong," expected to open to huge audiences Wednesday.

"We've never needed two films like this more than we do now," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations. "It's the knockout punch that Hollywood needs."

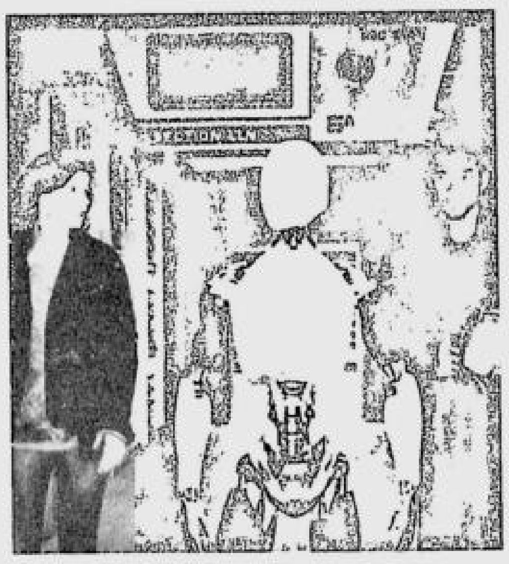
Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations: 1) "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," $67.1M; 2) "Syriana," $12M; 3) "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," $10.3M; 4) "Walk the Line," $5.75M; 5) "Yours, Mine & Ours," $5.15M; 6) "Aeon Flux," $4.6M; 7) "Just Friends," $3.9M; 8) "Pride & Prejudice," $2.5M; 9) "Chicken Little," $2.3M; 10) "Rent," $2M. *AP*

'Robomania' continues

"Robomania" continues on Star Movies with "Robocop 2" on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 9 p.m. The movie is described as "the darker and more violent" sequel to "Robocop." Director Irvin Kershner ("Star Wars: Episode V—The Empire Strikes Back") weaves a complex underground world ruled by corporate goons exploiting the city of Detroit and a psychotic drug lord known as Cain.

The series rounds up with "Robocop 3," directed by Fred Dekker, on Christmas Eve, 9 p.m. Finally, the "Robocop" trilogy (the first one aired Dec. 10) will be aired back-to-back on Dec. 31, from 3 p.m.

Also on New Year's Eve, "I, Robot"—starring Will Smith—premieres on Star Movies, at 9 p.m. and 11 p.m.



Steven's dream ends

From page A3-1

live-action films like "Saving Private Ryan." DreamWorks will remain an active movie maker in Paramount's stable of companies.

The trio had ambitious plans when they formed. They wanted to build a new digital studio in west Los Angeles using old aircraft hangars where Howard Hughes had once kept his history-making Spruce Goose airplane. That never happened.

Their idea was to make films, TV shows, video games and other digital products for the new media age.

Reuters

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

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GALLERIA

1 KING KONG • THX
2 KING KONG
3 KING KONG
4 KING KONG
5 KING KONG
6 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
7 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
8 THE FOG
9 IN HER SHOES
10 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE

ERMITA

1 KIN GKONG
2 THE FOG
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 IN HER SHOES
5 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
6 KING KONG
7 KING KONG

METRO EAST

682-8193/682-8199

1 THE FOG
2 KING KONG
3 KING KONG
4 IN HER SHOES
5 KING KONG
6 KING KONG
7 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
8 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE

NOVALICHES

1 KING KONG
2 IN HER SHOES
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 KING KONG
5 THE FOG
6 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

CITISQUARE MALABON

1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER

887-5378

1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 THE FOG
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN

CHECK THIS OUT ▸▸

ROBINSONS CINEMAS
Novaliches
NOw oPen!

Cinema 1 KING KONG
Cinema 2 IN HER SHOES
Cinema 3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
Cinema 4 KING KONG
Cinema 5 THE FOG
Cinema 6 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

STA ROSA

1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 THE FOG
4 IN HER SHOES

LIPA

1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 THE FOG
4 CHICKEN LITTLE

DASMARINAS

(046) 862-2125
(046) 416-4332

1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 IN HER SHOES

ANGELES

(045) 892-2348

1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 THE FOG

IMUS

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(046) 471-8188

1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 THE FOG
4 IN HER SHOES

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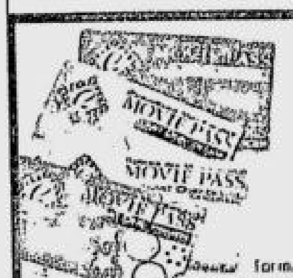
1 THE FOG
2 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 PRIME
4 KING KONG
5 KING KONG
6 KING KONG

BACOLOD

1 KING KONG
2 THE FOG
3 KING KONG
4 KING KONG
5 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
6 CHICKEN LITTLE

ILOILO

1 KING KONG
2 THE FOG
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 KING KONG
5 KING KONG
6 ILUSYON



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Ayala MUSEUM

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AYALA CINEMAS THX

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Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1	1 THE FOG	2 KINGKONG	3 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS	4 AN UNFINISHED LIFE	
G4	1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN	2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	3 THX KINGKONG GUARANTEED SEATS		
	4 KISS KISS BANG BANG	5 CHICKEN LITTLE	6 KINGKONG	7 IN HER SHOES	
GB1	1 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS	2 KINGKONG			
GB3	1 THX KINGKONG GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX KINGKONG GUARANTEED SEATS			
	3 IN HER SHOES GUARANTEED SEATS	4 KISS KISS BANG BANG GUARANTEED SEATS	5 JUST LIKE HEAVEN GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC	1 THX KINGKONG	2 KINGKONG			
	3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN	4 IN HER SHOES	5 THE FOG		
ACC	1 KINGKONG	2 KINGKONG	3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN	4 THE FOG	

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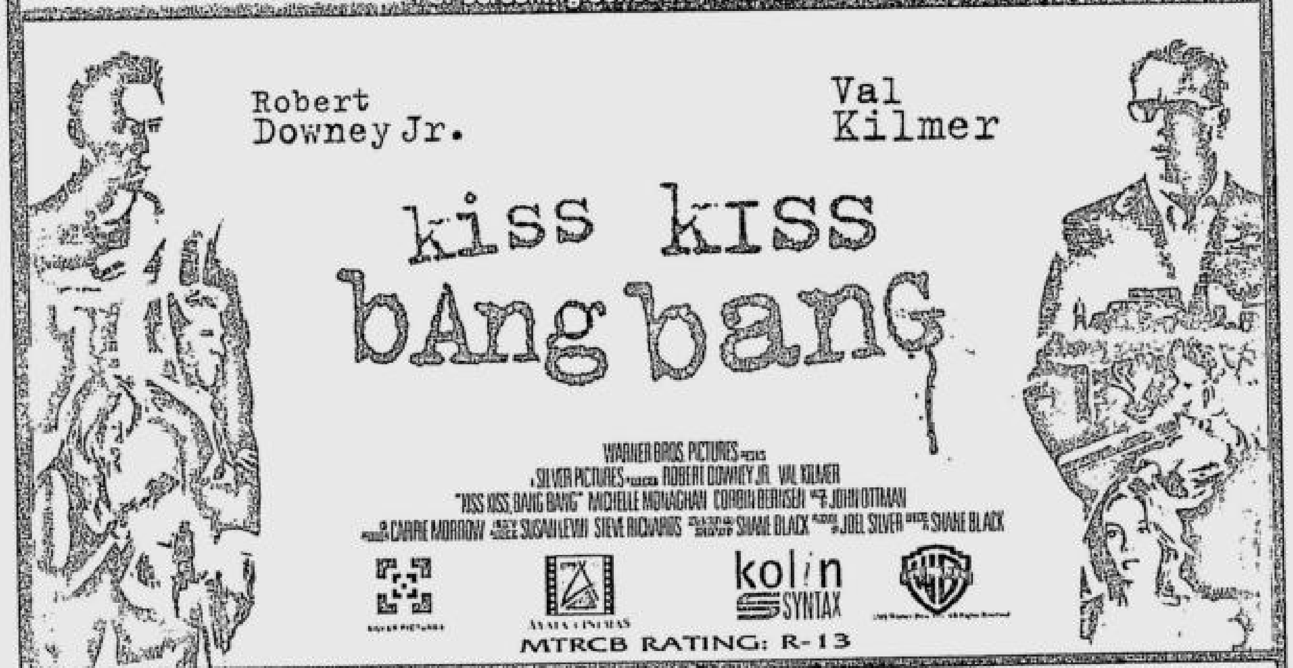

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King Kong

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Directed by Peter Jackson

Not a few film buffs are familiar with the tale of the giant ape. This third incarnation has Oscar-winning filmmaker Jackson (of the "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy) directing Oscar nominee Watts (previous versions had Fay Wray and Jessica Lange as Kong's object of affection) and Oscar winner Brody (as Kong's human rival). Jackson, setting his "Kong" in the 1930s, retells the journey of a group of explorers and documentary filmmakers into Skull Island, where they meet the "eighth wonder of the world." No, not the Banaue Rice Terraces. Devin Gordon of Newsweek describes the "$207 million remake" as "surprisingly tender, even a heartbreaking film. Like the original, it's a tragic tale of beauty and the beast ... Unlike the [100-minute] original, [however] Jackson's version is a Kong-size three hours. Some critics complain [about] the length ... but while 'Kong' may be indulgent, it's not pretentious. And it's certainly never dull."

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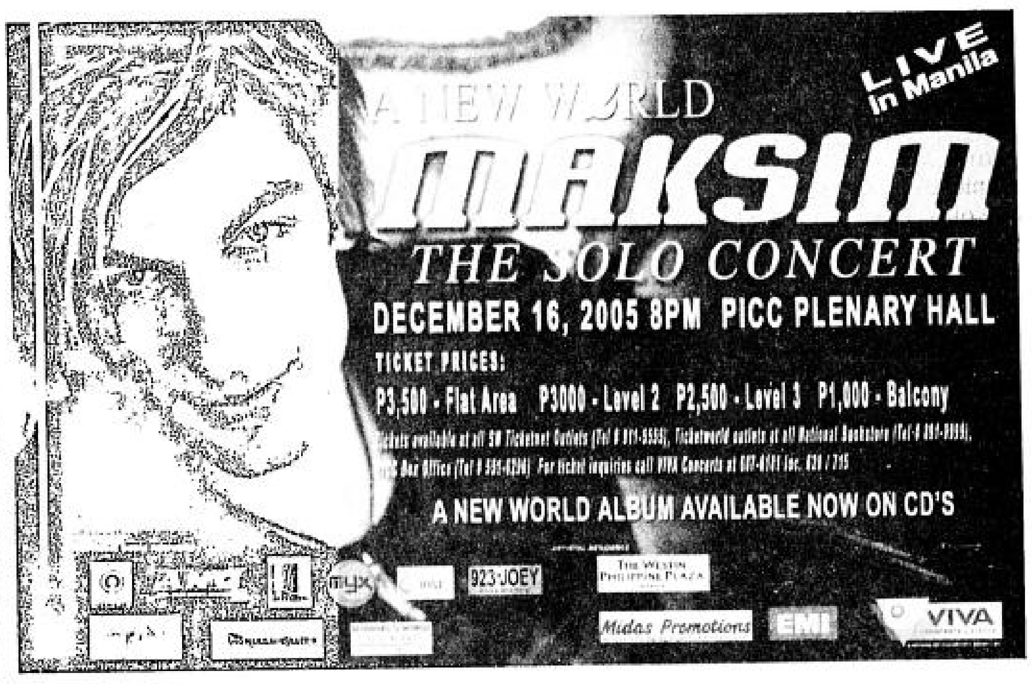

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Foreign investments jump 69% to $812M

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Figures that matter in our nation's life

Projected investments in irrigation (2006-2018)

Source: National Irrigation Administration

TWENTY major irrigation projects across the country with projected investment requirements of P46.7 billion were identified by the National Irrigation Administration on implementation from 2006 to 2018. These projects systems are combination of new irrigation and rehabilitation of existing irrigation facilities. Irrigation assistance is one of the services extended by the government to farmers to enable them to increase agricultural production.

Chona Galang, PDI Research

But September posted net outflow of $87M

By Doris C. Dumlao

SOME $812 MILLION IN NET FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS flowed into the Philippines from January to September this year, 69 percent better than a year ago, on rosier prospects for the manufacturing sector.

But the nine-month FDI flows to the Philippines represented a decline from the $929 million in inflows from January to August largely due to outflows from inter-company borrowings recorded in September, documents from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed.

For the month of September alone, there was a net outflow of non-resident investments worth $87 million, a reversal of the $409 million in net inflows recorded in August.

"Higher net inflows of FDI in prior months more than compensated for the $87-million net contraction in September," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

"While net equity capital infusion in September remained in surplus, this was not adequate to offset the net outflow in the inter-company accounts during the month," he said.

Inter-company borrowings between investee companies and their foreign principals represented the "other capital" component of FDI.

During the nine-month period, the manufacturing sector attracted $506 million in fresh capital while real estate and services got

FOREIGN/ B2

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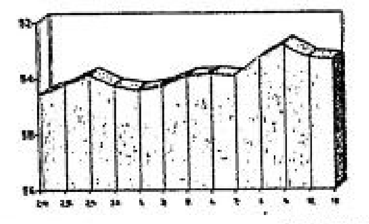

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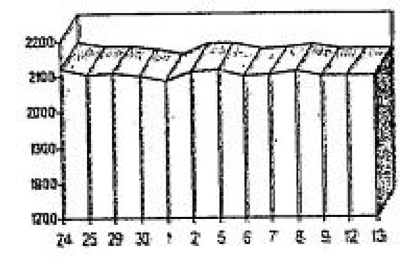
PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B5)

Shares close flat

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.1 percent lower yesterday as investors remained cautious due to higher oil prices and ahead of the US Federal Reserve policy meeting, dealers said.

SHARES/ B3

Ford, Honda consider entry of biofuel-run vehicles

By Abigail L. Ho

BOLSTERING GOVERNMENT EFforts to push the use of alternative transport fuels, car manufacturers Ford and Honda have expressed interest in bringing into the country vehicles that use fuels such as ethanol, biodiesel and compressed natural gas (CNG).

An industry source said the two vehicle giants were looking at providing CNG-fueled and biofuel-fed vehicles to the Philippine market, particularly as alternative fuel use starts to become more mainstream.

"If they do decide to enter the market and there are takers (of the alternative fuel-run vehicles), then that will be really good," the source said.

Mario Marasigan, director of the Department of Energy's Energy Utilization Management Bureau, confirmed that some car manufacturers had indeed brought up the idea of selling "flexivehicles" here.

"That could pave the way for the acceleration of the biofuels industry," he said.

A biofuels bill is currently being deliberated in the Senate. The bill, when passed into law, will provide various fiscal and non-fiscal incentives to encourage potential investors to enter the alternative fuels industry.

The bill's author, Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, said alternative fuels would surely gain acceptance, although this would take some time and effort on the part of both the government and the industry players.

He cited the case of the transition from leaded to unleaded gasoline, which was also met with much criticism and opposition at the onset.

Now, years after the use of unleaded gasoline was imposed, he said vehicle manufacturers, oil industry players and motorists have fully accepted the modified fuel.

Reacting to some vehicle manufacturers' apprehension over the use of ethanol-blended gasoline, Marasigan assured that nothing in the World Fuel Charter would be violated.

"Ford, for example, has been producing cars that run on biofuels," he said.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Billionaire, thanks to SM /B3
Customs exceeds Nov. target /B16

Dearest Santa,
I just want you to know that I've been good this year. Nothing would make me happier than receiving a Ford Escape V6. You can choose between a 10% DP or a 2-year Free Ford Solutions package. That gives me 2 years of comprehensive insurance, scheduled service plan, warranty and 24/7 Emergency Roadside Assistance.
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But hurry, this promo's good only until supplies last.
Thank you. :)
Monch

Dear Santa,
This Christmas all I want is the Ford Everest. Imagine, it comes with free leather seats and one-year comprehensive insurance plan! Plus free service and maintenance for one year.
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C'mon Santa, I've earned it this year!
Joey

Hi Santa!
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RP negotiators urge WTO to cap liberalization

Philippine think tanks cite negative effects of a decade of 'free trade'

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INDEPENDENT FILIPINO THINK TANKS yesterday blasted efforts to further liberalize the markets of developing countries in the World Trade Organization.

Also, the country's biggest business group called on Filipino negotiators to push for special treatment in all areas.

According to Ibon Foundation, the Philippines has been identified as among those with potentially large markets for services, accounting for roughly 47 percent of the country's domestic output.

The country had committed to opening up financial, communication, transport, tourism and travel-related services under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).

Ibon said that last May, the Philippines complied with the GATS deadline for initial offers, submitting six sectors for liberalization: Information technology, construction and engineering, distribution (wholesale, retail and franchising), energy, environmental (sewage, refuse disposal, sanitation, etc.) and tourism services.

When the Association of Southeast Asian Nations pointed out that there was no consensus on these areas, the think tank took the move to mean that "developed countries would have difficulty in railroading" liberalization agreements at the Hong Kong conference.

"For countries like the Philippines, a fresh wave of market opening measures will certainly heighten the negative effects of a decade of 'free trade'—bankruptcy of local industries, rising unemployment and mass poverty," Ibon said.

Also, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry called on negotiators to find ways for the WTO negotiations to move ahead toward "fair trade."

"To date, developed countries' farm subsidies and import duties continue to skew global commerce against developing countries and least developed countries," PCCI president Donald G. Dee said.

He said PCCI supported the government's alliances with like-minded countries who share common interests in the current trade talks such as G20 and G33.

Rubber growers brace for rising world demand

By Christine A. Gaylican

FILIPINO NATURAL RUBBER PRODUCers are all set to expand their operations to meet the growing world demand for the commodity.

Earnings for natural rubber in 2006 are expected to exceed this year's export of about 40,000 metric tons worth $64 million.

Some producers recently acquired an additional 4,500 hectares for rubber production, said Basilisa Ho, Philippine Rubber Industry Association chairperson.

She said that the close coordination of the Philippine Rubber Industry Association with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture has allowed producers to acquire additional areas in Sibugay town, Zamboanga.

Ho said that the world price of raw rubber sap jumped by more than 300 percent to an average of $1,600 per metric ton from the $380 per metric ton recorded in the same period last year.

"This has prompted farmers to produce more of the commodity this year," she said yesterday at the sidelines of the Philippine Agricultural Journalists Inc. forum.

The group is now in talks with Chinese investors willing to fund the development of rubber plantations in Mindanao, Ho said.

The Philippines is the 12th largest rubber producer in the world. Of the 60,000 metric tons of rubber produced this year, some 20,000 metric tons have been used in the domestic market.

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PLAYGROUND FOR THE POOR Jonathan Atwood and Ray Soberano of Kraft (second and third from left) join Roberto Nazal of the Philippine Business for Social Progress (extreme right) in breaking ground for a playground in a poor community in Muntinlupa. Kraft recently donated P2.5 million to fund such programs.

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Chikka Asia upgrades

CHIKKA ASIA INC., THE firm that brought the Internet to mobile text messaging application Chikka Messenger, has upgraded its service to meet the highest quality standards.

Carnegie Mellon's Software Engineering Institute (SEI) is now reviewing Chikka Asia for acceptance to the Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) maturity level 5—the highest standard of quality in information technology.

In February this year, the company received an ISO certifications for IT, information security and quality management, becoming the first Filipino firm to obtain triple certifications.

Miaa wants better DBP loan deal for Naia 3

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MANILA INTERNATIONAL Airport Authority has asked the Development Bank of the Philippines to improve the terms of its P27-billion loan offer.

Miaa general manager ALfonso Cusi said the aviation agency wanted DBP to lower the interest rate on the loan it would use to compensate the consortium that built the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 and complete the civil works at the mothballed terminal.

DBP president Reynaldo David, however, said it was not about to change the terms of its offer, but added that it was still finalizing the members of the group that would syndicate the loan.

The loan being arranged by the DBP, the country's ninth-largest lender, was seen as a clear indication that the government intended to operate the new terminal once the court grants its petition for expropriation.

"We are talking with the officials of Miaa. We want to help expedite the opening of the airport," said David in an earlier interview.

DBP is studying the cash flow of the Miaa to see if it has the capacity to pay the 10-year loan, added David.

The Miaa has recorded a net income of P570 million in the first nine months, 21 percent over 2004 levels.

SEC told to restore pre-need firms' license to sell

CONGRESS HAS ISSUED HOUSE Resolution 1049, asking the Securities and Exchange Commission to suspend the controversial Actuarial Reserve Liability and restore the License to Sell of both College Assurance Plan and Pacific Plans Inc.

In a series of hearings conducted by the oversight committee chaired by Rep. Danilo E. Suarez, legislators established that the pre-need industry had experienced tremendous growth—hitting over P40 billion in trust funds, with total assets worth P157 billion—in 2004.

But because of the deregulation of tuition fees, which led to the increase in tuition, the once growing industry started to encounter problems.

Officials from the pre-need industry welcomed the latest move of Congress.

"Congress has seen the disastrous effects of a policy fundamentally unsound," said Bobby Cafe of CAP.

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Foreign . . .

From page B1

$91 million and $16 million, respectively.

Within the manufacturing sector, which accounts for about 70 percent of the country's industrial output, the electronics and food sub-sectors got the biggest share of fresh foreign investments.

Bulk of the FDIs came from investors based in the United States and Hong Kong, Tetangco said.

The FDI record was based on the country's balance of payments as tabulated by the BSP, measuring actual flows that came in during the period as opposed to mere investment pledges.

FDI flows refer to investments in businesses that are usually capital- and labor-intensive such as those spent in building new factories or other enterprises.

Nevertheless, Tetangco said the nine-month FDI flows were much higher than the year-ago level of $481 million.

"Higher net FDI flows year-to-date were attributed to net inflows of equity capital which remained strong, expanding by 45.3 percent to reach $933 million due to the combined effects of higher equity placements and lower withdrawals," he said.

Although bigger FDIs are expected this year compared to last year, there are some outflows expected from the offshore expansion plans of Philippine companies like food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp.

SMC has emerged as a major regional player after a spate of major acquisitions, including Australian dairy giant National Foods Ltd. It has likewise made inroads to new markets like Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia on top of existing investments in China.

The FDI flows trickling to the Philippines are also still too meager compared with the $148.9 billion in net direct investments expected to pour into emerging economies this year. Based on estimates by Washington-based think-tank Institute of International Finance (IIF), the Asia-Pacific region is seen to generate $63.9 billion this year and $64 billion next year.

China remains the major recipient of direct investments in emerging Asia as these flows, along with the mobilization of its cheap labor force, have transformed the country into a regional export hub.

Billionaire, thanks to SM

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE FONGS OF THE SHUTTERED UNITED Supermarket fame have joined the billionaire ranks, thanks to their partnership with mall king Henry Sy Sr.

The Fongs became the Sys' minority partners in 1984 when the taipan needed trusted and seasoned hands who would manage the then fledgling supermarket venture.

From a big fish in a small pond, the Fongs eventually shut down United to become full-time executives—Manuel Fong Jr. is the managing director of the supermarket venture—for the rapidly growing SM pond.

In return, the Fong family was given a 20 percent stake in the joint venture.

Yesterday's announcement by SM Investments Corp. that it was folding in the supermarket and hypermarket ventures into the publicly listed company meant that the Fongs would be entitled to about 20 percent of the 56 million new shares that SMIC would issue to realize the fold-in.

At yesterday's close of P249/share, the market value of the Fong shareholdings would amount to more than P2.78 billion.

Not bad for 21 years of work.

Join NGOs, see the world

NGO types like to wear their hearts on their sleeves.

What is not very public is that there are quite a number of foreign travel perks that go with their activism.

Yesterday's news item about 700 Filipino left-wing activists flying to Hong Kong to join the protest actions against the World Trade Organization conference meant, at a conservative budget of $500 per participant, a mobilization fund of at least $350,000 (about P19 million).

Even before the WTO talks, Church-supported NGOs had been flown to the Chinese colony supposedly for their "immersion" work.

The CODE-NGO, for instance, gave P250,000 to Negros, Mindanao and Cordillera "farmers" to fund their exposure trip to an organic farm in Hong Kong only last May.

The HK trip came on the heels of another exposure trip to Vietnam, also funded by CODE-NGO, for one of their foundation trustees.

These foreign trips do not yet include the travel grants built into the dollar-denominated funding extended by foreign donors to the local organizers.

Manila de-mined

MANILA Mining announced yesterday the resignation of its Canadian president, Charles Lyndon Bradish, in the wake of the conflict-of-interest issue raised by fellow board director, TV talk show host Ricardo "Dong" Puno Jr.

The listed mining company, also controlled by Lepanto Consolidated chair Felipe Yap, acknowledged that the foreign import tendered his resignation "in view of the current negotiations between Manila Mining and East Asia Minerals Corp.," a listed Canadian mining company where Bradish is also president and CEO.

The Manila Mining announcement did not say who will replace Bradish as president.

Heard through the grapevine

SOCIETY octogenarian couple Manuel "Dindo" Gonzales and Nellie Montilla-Gonzales are trading court suits against each other so nastily that they tend to make the Ilusorio family feud look like a love fest.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Shares close flat

From page B1

They said another rise in US interest rates would come as no surprise, but investors were focused on the accompanying statement for an outlook of the US economy and whether the current rate cycle was nearing an end.

The composite index fell 2.36 points to 2,099.04 after moving between 2,097.24 and 2,108.97. The broader all-shares index retreated 0.80 point to 1,269.30.

Volume traded reached 368.9 million shares worth P865.9 million, about a third of which were cross transactions. Losers outnumbered gainers 35 to 26, while 51 stocks were steady.

"Some negative developments such as a (possible) tightening in interest rates and recent spike in oil prices are dissuading investors from buying stocks more aggressively," said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings Inc.

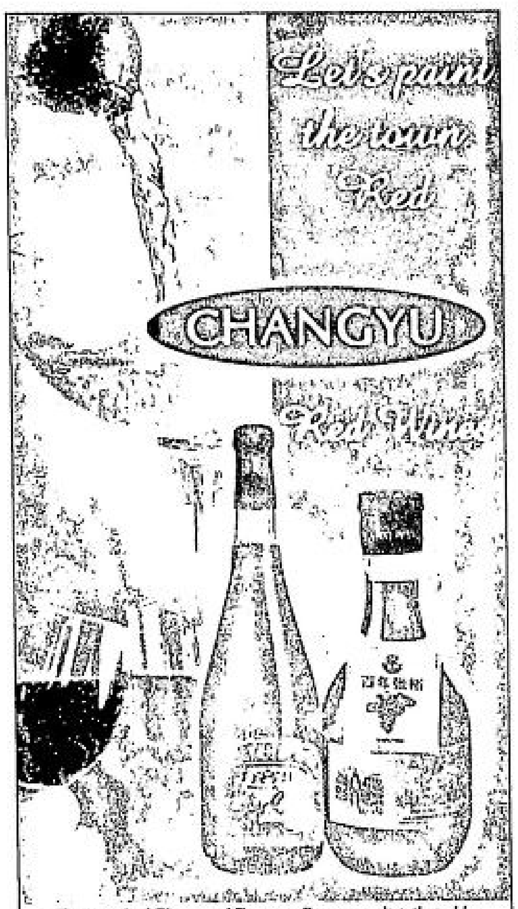
Analysts warned that the central bank here could also raise its policy rates for the fourth time this year when it meets Thursday for its monthly policy meeting, a move that may hurt the fragile economy.

"There has been no clear indication from the central bank, and anything can happen considering that the monetary authority has recently made preemptive moves to prevent a sharper rise in inflation," Del Castillo said.

Ayala Land was the most actively traded stock, closing unchanged at P9.90. Parent Ayala Corp. was also flat at P330.

Bank of the Philippine Islands led losers, down a peso at P56.

Globe Telecom was up P5 at P750 while rival Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. erased initial gains to settle flat at P1,790. *AFP*



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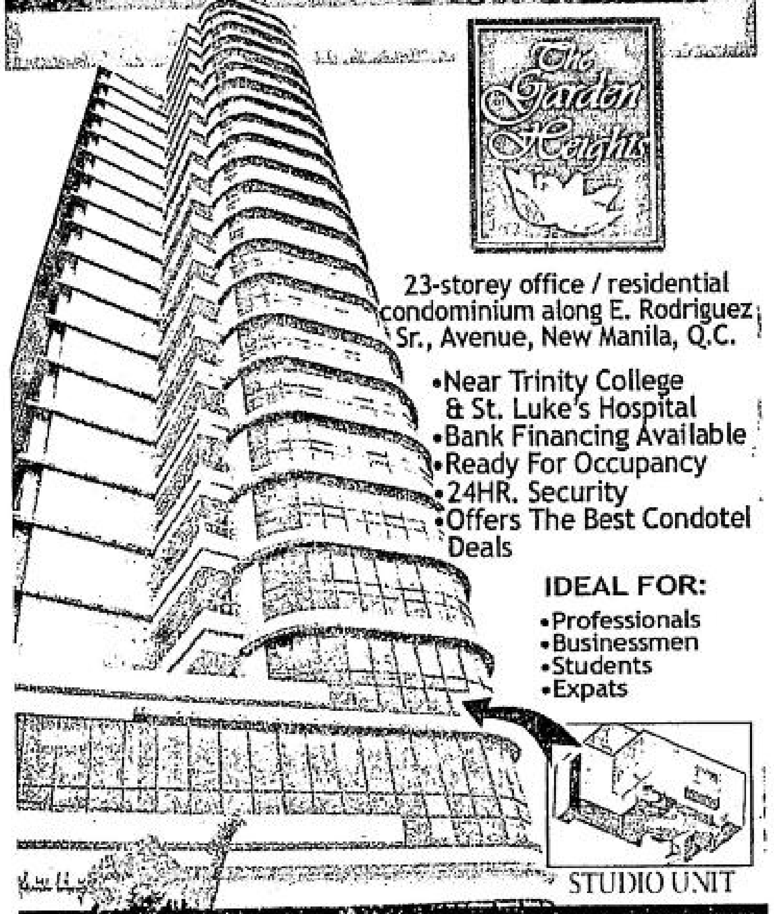

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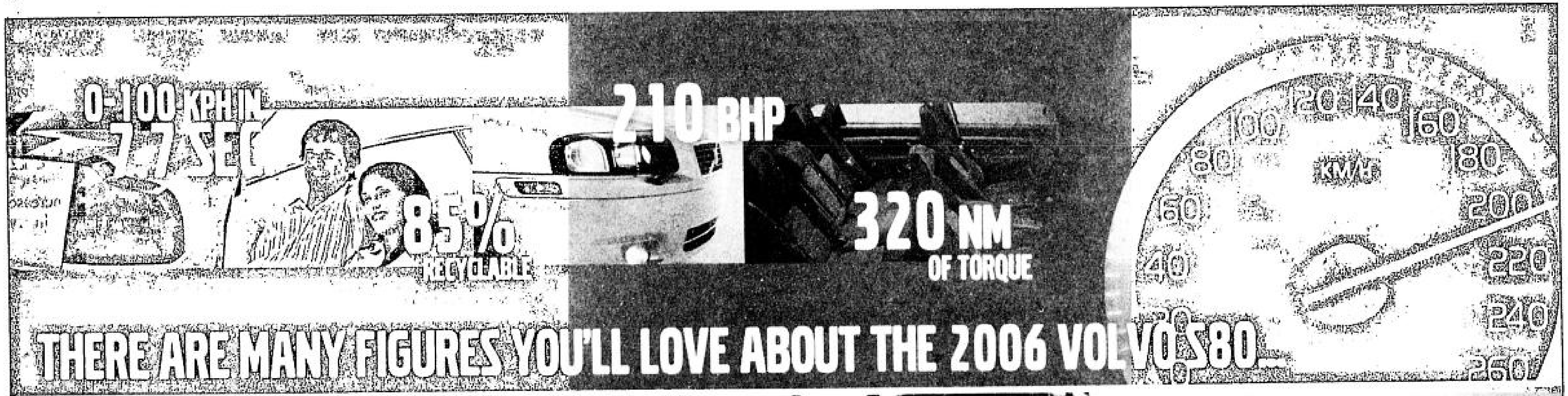
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DIRECTOR OF SALES & MARKETING
SALES MANAGER
PERSONAL WEDDING PLANNER
RESERVATIONS MANAGER
FRONT OFFICE MANAGER
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RA 9048
14 June 2001
RA form No. 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Baguio City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that Mayrose S. Pobre has filed with this Office a petition for Change of First Name from PHIL to MAYROSE in the birth certificate of PHIL M. SALINAS who was born on 15 May 1973 at Magsaysay, Isabela and whose parents are Iluminado Salinas and Beatriz Madriaga.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than 03 January 2006.

(Sgd.) SYLVIA R. LAUDENCIA
City Civil Registrar

(PDI - December 14 & 21, 2005)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City

SEC MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 7
Series of 2005

GUIDELINES ON THE EVALUATION OF FOREIGN INVESTMENTS BY MUTUAL FUND COMPANIES

The Commission, in its resolution dated November 17, 2005, promulgated the following guidelines on the evaluation of foreign investments by mutual fund companies:

1. Mutual fund companies shall be guided by the following objectives in their investments in foreign instruments:
   a. To diversify their investment portfolio;
   b. To enhance the return on investment of the investors;
   c. To protect and promote the interests of the investors, as provided for in the Investment Company Act, Securities Regulation Code and their implementing rules and regulations.
2. The said investments shall be limited to the following financial instruments:
   a. **Bonds and other evidence of indebtedness**
      i. Those issued and unconditionally guaranteed by the government of any foreign country with a credit rating that is at least at par with the rating of Republic of the Philippines' bonds;
      ii. Those registered and traded in an organized market in another country whose issue and issuer/borrower received a credit rating of Aaa or AAA from a reputable international credit rating agency, such as, but not limited to, Moody's Investor's Services, Standard and Poor's and Fitch Ratings;
      iii. Those issued and unconditionally guaranteed by supranationals (or international organizations whose membership transcends national boundaries or interests), e.g., World Bank, Asian Development Bank, that received a minimum long-term credit rating of Aaa or AAA from a reputable international credit rating agency, such as, but not limited to, Moody's Investor's Services, Standard and Poor's and Fitch Ratings.

      For sub-paragraphs (ii) and (iii), it is essential that the issuer fully complies with the obligation of continuing disclosure and the other requirements of the securities laws and regulations in force in the place of issuance of the instruments.
   b. **Equity securities**

      Those traded in an organized exchange in another country and possess all the following qualities:
      i. The issuer has a track record of profitable operation for the preceding three (3) consecutive years, or of consistent dividend declarations for the same periods;
      ii. The equities have the following Return on Equity (ROE):

Grade	Max Exposure (% of Allocated Fund for Equity)	Description
A	100%	Stocks with ROEs 25% better than the last 3-year average ROE of the Phisix
B	50%	Stocks with ROEs at par with the 3-year average ROE of the Phisix
C	25%	Stocks with ROEs below the 75% to 100% range of the 3-year average ROE of the Phisix
D	20%	Stocks with ROEs equivalent to 50% but less than 75% of the last 3-year average ROE of the Phisix

      iii. The issuer fully complies with its obligation of continuing disclosure and the other requirements of the securities laws and regulations in force in its jurisdiction and which laws and regulations are not substantially different from those enforced in the Philippines.
   c. Such other forms of tradable foreign investments as the Commission may, in the future, allow subject to such restrictions or limitations that it may impose.
3. A financial instrument shall be considered tradable if its quoted two-way prices are readily and regularly available from an exchange, dealer, broker, industry, group, pricing service or regulatory agency, and those prices represent actual and regularly occurring market transactions on an arm's length basis.
4. The purchase and sale of foreign securities shall be made only through a distributor or underwriter duly authorized or licensed by the government of the issuer of such securities.
5. As a general guideline, the foreign investment portfolio of mutual fund companies shall be properly allocated according to the following criteria:
   (a) aggressive (high-risk), growth-oriented (moderate risk) or conservative (low risk);
   (b) dealing in short-term (one year or less), medium-term (longer than one year but not exceeding three years), or long-term (longer than three years) debt securities;
   (c) area of focus of investment, e.g., securities of companies engaged in real estate, development, etc.;
   (d) mode of investment, e.g., common shares, convertible preferred shares, loans with warrants to common shares, etc.
6. For purposes of these Guidelines, the credit ratings equivalent shall be as follows:

Credit Risk	Rating
INVESTMENT GRADE	
Highest Quality	Aaa or AAA
High Quality (very strong)	Aa or AA
Upper Medium Grade (strong)	A
Medium Grade	Baa or BBB
NON-INVESTMENT GRADE	
Lower Medium Grade (somewhat speculative)	Ba or BB
Low Grade (speculative)	B
Poor Quality (may default)	Caa or CCC
Most Speculative	Ca or CC
No interest being paid or bankruptcy petition filed	C
In default	C or D

Definition of Symbols

Aaa or AAA: Smallest degree of investment risk, interest payments are protected by a large or by an exceptionally stable margin and principal secured. While the various protective elements are likely to change, such changes as can be visualized are most unlikely to impair the fundamentally strong position of such issues.

Aa or AA: Margins of protection may not be as large as in Aaa issues. Fluctuations of protective elements may be of greater amplitude or there may be other elements present which make the long-term risk appear somewhat larger than for Aaa-rated securities.

A: With favorable investment attributes and are considered upper-medium grade obligations. Factors giving security to principal and interest are considered adequate but elements may be present which suggest a susceptibility to impairment sometime in the future.

Baa or BBB: Neither highly protected nor poorly secured. Interest payments and principal security appear adequate for the present but certain protective elements may be lacking or may be characteristically unreliable over any great length of time. Such issues lack outstanding investment characteristics and in fact have speculative characteristics as well.

Ba or BB: Judged to have speculative elements. The issuer's capability to pay for such issues cannot be considered as well assured. Often, the protection of interest and principal payments may be very moderate and thereby not well safeguarded during both good and bad times over the future.

B: Generally lacks the characteristics of a desirable investment. Assurance of interest and principal payments or maintenance of other terms of contract over any long period of time may be small.

Caa or CCC: Poor standing. High possibility of default and there may be present elements of danger with respect to principal or interest.

Ca or CC: Very poor standing. Has other marked shortcomings. The issue may be in default.

C or D: In default.

This Circular shall be published in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines and shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the date of its last publication.

Failure to comply with any of the foregoing Guidelines shall constitute a violation by the mutual fund company of its Investment Objectives, Policies and Restrictions and therefore make it liable for sanctions under existing regulations.

Signed on behalf of the Commission on December 5, 2005, Mandaluyong City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) **FE B. BARIN**
Chairperson

(PDI-Dec. 14, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

In Compliance with RA 7041

A. GRAFT INVESTIGATION & PROSECUTION OFFICER III - SG 28

1. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) B** - Item No. OMBA-GIPO3-15-2004
2. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) D** - Item No. OMBA-GIPO3-14-2004

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: Five (5) years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related works; Training: 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

B. GRAFT INVESTIGATION & PROSECUTION OFFICER II - SG 27

1. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) A** - Item No. OMBA-GIO2-40-1998
2. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) C** - Item No. OMBA-GIO2-16-1998
3. **PROSECUTION & MONITORING BUREAU** - Item No. OMBA-GIO2-21-1998

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: Four (4) years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related works; Training: 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

C. GRAFT INVESTIGATION & PROSECUTION OFFICER I - SG 26

1. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) A** - Item No. OMBA-GIO1-3-1998; OMBA-GIO1-58-1998; (2 Positions)
2. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) B** - Item No. OMBA-GIO1-34-1998
3. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUCATION BUREAU (PIAB) C** - Item No. OMBA-GIO1-30-1998; OMBA-GIO1-43-1998; OMBA-GIO1-67-1998; (3 Positions)
4. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) D** - Item No. OMBA-GIO1-39-1998; OMBA-GIO1-61-1998; OMBA-GIO1-107-1998; (3 Positions)
5. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) E** - Item No. OMBA-GIO1-66-1998

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: Three (3) years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related works; Training: 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

D. ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER II - SG 18

1. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) D** - Item No. OMBA-AGIO1-13-1998

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: Six (6) months of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/analyses, counseling, investigation or other related work; Training: 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

OR

Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 1 year of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/analyses, counseling, investigation or other related work; Training: 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility

E. ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I - SG 15

1. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) B** - Item No. OMBA-AGIO1-7-1998

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

OR

Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: Six (6) months of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/analyses, counseling, investigation or other related work; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility

F. LIBRARIAN II - SG 14

1. **RESEARCH AND SPECIAL STUDIES BUREAU** - Item No. OMBA-LIB2-1-1998

Education: Bachelor's degree in Library Science or Information Science or Bachelor of Science in Education/Arts major in Library Science; Experience: One year relevant experience; Training: Four (4) hours relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (LIBRARIAN)

G. LIBRARIAN I - SG 10

1. **RESEARCH AND SPECIAL STUDIES BUREAU** - Item No. OMBA-LIB1-1-1998

Education: Bachelor's degree in Library Science or Information Science or Bachelor of Science in Education/Arts major in Library Science; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: RA 1080 (LIBRARIAN)

H. STENOGRAPHIC REPORTER III - SG 11

1. **BUREAU OF RESIDENT OMBUDSMAN** - Item No. OMBA-STENR3-124-1998
2. **PROSECUTION AND MONITORING BUREAU** - Item No. OMBA-STENR3-32-1998 (Realigned from GIB-A)

Education: Completion of two years studies in college; Experience: Two (2) years of relevant experience; Training: Eight (8) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional/First Level Eligibility

I. SECRETARY II - SG 9

1. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) A** - Item No. OMBA-SEC2-1-1998

Education: Completion of two years studies in college; Experience: One (1) year of relevant experience; Training: Four (4) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional/First Level Eligibility

Applicants should submit within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division at the above address, the following requirements:

1) A letter stating the position applied for;
2) Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212);
3) 1"x1" picture (colored)
4) *Bar/Board Rating or CSC Certificate of Eligibility;
5) *Transcript of Records;
6) *Certificates of Seminars/Training attended;
7) *Service Records or Certificates from previous/present employers stating the positions assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable)
8) *Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
9) Statement duly signed by the applicant as to any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consaguinity or affinity, currently employed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

*Where photocopies are filed, the documents must be certified as true copies by the proper authorities or the applicant may present the originals to the Human Resource Management Officer for comparison with the photocopies.

(PDI–December 14, 2005)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF UNISERVICES, INC.

Notice is hereby given to the public that **Uniservices, Inc.**, with Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") Registration No. A200011040 incorporated on 13 July 2000, will file with the SEC a Certificate of Amendment of its Articles of Incorporation shortening its corporate life to 13 December 2005. This dissolution is in accordance with the resolution of its Board of Directors dated 7 November 2005 duly approved by its stockholders representing at least two-thirds (2/3) of its outstanding capital stock on 14 November 2005.

Any person who may have a claim against said Corporation may present the same to the undersigned at Suite D, 7th Floor, The Valero Tower, 1227, Makati City, Metro Manila.

This announcement serves as notice to all parties concerned of the dissolution of said Company.

(Sgd.) **Danilo L. Cruz**
Corporate Secretary
UNISERVICES, INC.

(PDI–Dec. 7, 14 & 21, 2005)

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(As of December 13, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	32.5	32.5	32	32.5	952,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	57.5	57.5	56	56	299,800
China Banking Corp.	605	605	605	605	100
Citystate Savings Bank	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.62	0.64	0.62	0.62	1,470,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	54.5	55.5	54.5	54.5	73,500
International Exch. Bank	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	6,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33	33	33	33	205,000
Philippine National Bank	32.5	32.5	32	32	11,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	200
Security Bank Corp.	32.5	32.5	32.5	32.5	24,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	15,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	25	25	25	25	100
Manulife Financial Corp.	3115	3115	3115	3115	300
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	21,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2120	2135	2120	2130	2,300
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	13,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.89	0.89	440,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	750	755	750	750	59,800
Ipeople Inc.	2.75	2.9	2.75	2.9	96,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	600,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.45	3.5	2,236,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1790	1800	1790	1790	66,050
Ivantage Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	2,900,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	13,600,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.75	15.75	15.5	15.5	96,000
Manila Electric Co. B	24.25	24.25	24	24	375,900
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	1,196,000
Petron Corp.	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	1,679,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.58	1.6	1.58	1.6	35,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	90,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.6	9.6	9.4	9.4	172,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	200,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.22	17,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.71	500,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	120,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.9	4	3.9	3.9	6,718,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	31,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	44	44	43	43	100,300
Pancake House Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63.5	64	63.5	64	38,100
San Miguel Corp. B	87	88	87	88	62,000
Universal Robina Corp.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	17,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	330	332.5	327.5	330	426,700
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	190,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.75	4.8	4.75	4.8	426,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	2,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	167,000
APC Group Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.23	400,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	15,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.86	0.86	500,000
Aries Prime Res. Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	350,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.16	14,557,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	60,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	50,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	1,010,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.15	3.2	3.1	3.1	95,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	1,224,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	48	48	47.5	47.5	628,500
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	50,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.52	1.52	150,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.28	1,991,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	15,670,000
Paxys Inc.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	212,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	250,000
SM Investments Corp.	249	249	249	249	6,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	400,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	770,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	20,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	70,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.99	1.02	0.99	1.02	4,640,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	474,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	13,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series I	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,700
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	3,000
Far Eastern University	610	610	610	610	30
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	10	10	9.9	9.9	17,651,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.08	12,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	700,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	5,350,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	3,224,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	270,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	500,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	276,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	1,570,000
SM Development Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	29,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.8	8	7.7	7.8	5,736,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	90,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	309,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.23	0.22	0.22	2,820,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.02	85,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.031	0.032	0.03	0.03	107,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	31,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.34	1,602,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.74	1.76	1.68	1.7	1,924,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28	28	27.5	28	293,000
OIL					
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	100,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.7	3.75	3.7	3.75	35,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.14	0.14	2,200,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	4,982,600	162,378,170.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	93,514,080	452,372,255.00
PRO	35,436,000	228,616,520.00
Mining	232,338,000	21,618,510.00
OIL	2,335,000	479,550.00
GRAND TOTALS :	368,607,680	865,465,005.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	614.99	DOWN 5.56
Comm'l & Ind'l	3,283.80	UP 4.46
PRO	812.38	DOWN 0.05
Mining	2,837.68	DOWN 34.87
OIL	2.90	UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,269.30	DOWN 0.80
Composite	2,099.04	DOWN 2.36

NO. OF ADVANCES: 26; NO. OF DECLINES: 35; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 51; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 112; NO. OF TRADES: 2,082

CURRENCIES

December 13, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.836470	1.000000	53.5860
Japan	Yen	0.006990	0.008356	0.4478
United Kingdom	Pound	1.485404	1.775800	95.1580
Hongkong	Dollar	0.107883	0.128974	6.9112
Switzerland	Franc	0.648477	0.775254	41.5428
Canada	Dollar	0.726544	0.868583	46.5439
Singapore	Dollar	0.497751	0.595061	31.8869
Australia	Dollar	0.632110	0.755687	40.4942
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.219283	2.653153	142.1719
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.223053	0.266660	14.2892
Brunei	Dollar	0.496274	0.593296	31.7924
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000103	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020298	0.024266	1.3003
UAE	Dirham	0.227747	0.272272	14.5900
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.195500	64.0621
Argentina	Peso	0.277897	0.332226	17.8027
Brazil	Real	0.371105	0.443656	23.7738
Denmark	Kroner	0.134215	0.160454	8.5981
India	Rupee	0.018180	0.021734	1.1646
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.221582	0.264901	14.1950
Mexico	New Peso	0.078708	0.094096	5.0422
New Zealand	Dollar	0.594633	0.710884	38.0934
Norway	Kroner	0.125761	0.150347	8.0565
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013983	0.016717	0.8958
South Africa	Rand	0.132221	0.158070	8.4703
Korea	Won	0.000809	0.000967	0.0518
Sweden	Kroner	0.105949	0.126662	6.7873
Syria	Pound	0.016114	0.019264	1.0323
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024963	0.029843	1.5992
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000390	0.000466	0.0250

Building up capital to fund priority lending programs

By Doris C. Dumlao

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES IS RAISING its capital by P7 billion through a combination of preferred shares and tier 2 subordinated debt offering in the first quarter of 2006.

In a briefing Monday night, Landbank officer-in-charge Gilda Pico said the P7 billion in additional funds would be sufficient to jack up the bank's capital adequacy ratio to 17 percent from the current 12.8 percent.

Pico said the bank was allowed to offer as much as P5 billion in new preferred shares to government-owned and -controlled corporations but it opted to raise only P2 billion through this.

At the same time, the $100-million senior debt issuance being planned by the bank earlier this year would still be pursued but as a tier 2 subordinated debt offering.

The bank had mandated Deutsche Bank to manage the $100-million debt issuance. It is still seeking clearance with the Department of Finance for the conversion of its planned borrowing into a tier 2 offering.

Pico said the bank was now working on the two capital build-up modes, which would prepare the bank for more stringent capital requirements in line with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' shift to international accounting and Basle 2 capital adequacy regulations.

She said the bank was now talking with GOCCs which were interested in subscribing to the bank's preferred shares. Like in the past, Landbank wants this new round of preferred shares issuance to involve only one investor.

The last time the bank issued preferred shares was to the National Development Co. which pumped into the bank P2 billion in 2001.

In the meantime, Pico said Landbank would likely end the year with P2.9 billion to P3 billion in net profit, up from P2.25 billion in 2004.

The bank has already exceeded its P2.5-billion target for this year as of October, with a 10-month net earnings of P2.62 billion.

The improved net income was attributed to the increase in revenue from loans which expanded by 15 percent and the prudent management of controllable expenses.

She noted that 75 percent of the bank's lending now focused on the agri-agra sector.

For 2006, the bank aims to top this year's performance by 10 percent.

"We're focusing on agriculture and commodity goods exports, the overseas Filipino workers market, support for LGUs (local government units) and we also want to help the government in its renewable energy sources, water and environmental projects," she said.

Gov't ready to pick adviser for sale of 2 TV stations

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PRIVATIZATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE (PMO) has come up with a shortlist of possible financial advisers for the planned sale of state-owned RPN 9 and IBC 13 next year.

PMO chief Jose A.R. Bengzon III said the shortlist included CLSA Exchange Capital; ING Bank; KPMG, Laya Mananghaya & Co.; Ernst & Young, and BPI Capital Corp.

Bengzon said the PMO came up with the shortlist following the pre-bidding conference held last Dec. 9. The pre-bidding conference. The bidding proper will be held on Dec. 21, he added.

Earlier, officials said the government was studying the possibility of a joint sale of the two television stations but had decided later to sell them separately to different buyers.

The winning bidder will be tasked to come up with the asset valuation and terms of the sale.

The government decided to put Channels 9 and 13 on the auction block in line with the policy of disposing assets deemed to be better managed by the private sector.

The Department of Finance earlier said privatization was also a means of generating additional funds for infrastructure projects.

The planned sale of the two television stations next year is expected to help the government meet its target of raising P500 million from privatization.

Finance Undersecretary Gabriel Singson Jr. said the P500-million target was conservative, given the list of assets lined up for privatization in 2006. He said that if all the assets listed would be sold, the government could easily surpass the P2.3 billion worth of revenue generated from privatization this year.

Other state-owned assets up for privatization next year are Philippine Postal Corp., PNOC-EDC and Maynilad shares. Singson said the government could also sell its shares in San Miguel Corp. and Manila Electric Co. next year.

The sale of the government's shares in Philippine National Bank to the Lucio Tan group accounted for the bulk of the P2.3 billion generated from privatization this year.

DISCLOSURES

SEMIRARA Mining Corp. acquired 133,000 of its outstanding shares at P28 per share on Dec. 12.

***

JG SUMMIT Holdings Inc. director Lily Ngochua acquired 150,000 of the firm's common shares on Dec. 13.

***

AYALA Corp. declared a cash dividend of P2 per share for shareholders on record as of Jan. 6, payable on Jan. 31. The annual shareholders' meeting will be on April 7, 9 a.m. at the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Intercontinental Manila in Makati City.

***

FIRST Philippine Holdings Corp. director Peter D. Garrucho Jr. disposed of 10,000 of the company's shares on Dec. 6.

***

IPVG Corp. entered into a memorandum of understanding with Singapore-based iGames Asia Pte Ltd. (IGA) to form a joint venture that would sell, distribute and publish IGA products.

***

ROXAS Holdings Inc. repurchased 150,000 of its shares at P1.24 per share on Dec. 12. ***Compiled by Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research***

AN SM hypermarket in Sucat

Sy flagship firm folding in two SM group retail units

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SM INVESTMENTS CORP., THE FLAGSHIP company of retail tycoon Henry Sy Sr., is acquiring the SM group's supermarket and hypermart operations to boost SMIC's value and expand retail revenues.

Industry sources said these retail operations were expected to chip in P1.1 billion in additional income to SMIC.

SMIC booked P5.3 billion in net earnings in its last fiscal year ending March 31, 2005, which it hoped to increase by 25 percent this year and more in the coming years through the absorption of key retail units.

SMIC executive vice president and chief finance officer Jose Sio said in an investor's briefing yesterday that SMIC's board had approved the acquisition of 100 percent of supermarket chain Supervalue Inc. and hypermarket operator Super Shopping Markets Inc.

Sio said SMIC was willing to transfer to Supervalue and Super Shopping Markets P14 billion worth of shares, equivalent to 56 million new shares, to be issued in exchange for 100 percent of the two SM companies.

A hypermart—which is around 10,000 square meters in floor size—combines a wet market, supermarket and discount store. It sells 50 percent food and 50 percent non-food or general merchandise usually found in department stores.

The SM Group runs five hypermarts in the country such as those in Sucat, Bicutan, Valenzuela, Marilao in Bulacan and Molino, Cavite.

It is scheduled to open at least four new hypermarts next year at its Mall of Asia along the Manila Bay area, SM Clark in Pampanga, Fontera Verde along C5 near the Tiendesitas market and within North Edsa beside SM City.

A supermarket spans around 8,000 sq.m. in floor space.

The SM Group currently operates 25 supermarkets and will open two to three more stores next year in Sta. Rosa in Laguna, Lipa in Batangas and in 2007 in Marikina.

Prestige Cars BMW
Sheer Driving Pleasure
The new BMW 316i.
Born to run. Priced to move.
Dynamic Arrival for P1,850,000. Available at Prestige Cars BMW.
A price within reach that offers:
- Luxurious space – A long wheelbase and wide body effectively contribute to a more spacious and comfortable interior.
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- Fuel efficiency – A 1.6 liter 4-cylinder engine that delivers 116 hp on lower fuel consumption.

The new BMW 316i. Embracing the Extremes.
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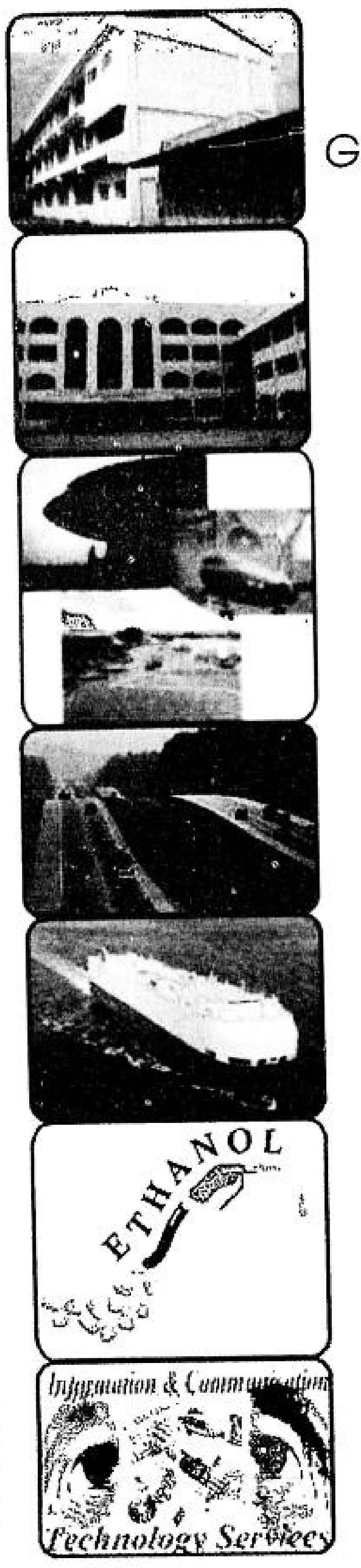
OGCC at 70



Greetings from the: NDC

NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
COMPANY

INVESTMENTS IN:

- NDC-Maritime Equity Corporation
- San Carlos Bio-energy Inc.
- Philippine Infrastructure Corporation
- Philippine National ConstructFertilizerporation
- Manila Exposition Complex Inc.
- Manila Gas Corporation
- PT. Asean Bintulu Ferilizer
- Asean Bintulu Fertilizer
- Asean Potash Mining Inc.
- Refractories Corporation of the Philippines
- Semirara Mining Corporation
- Science Park of the Philippines Inc.
- First Centennial Clark Corporation
- Philippine International Trading Corporation
- Pinagkaisa Realty Corporation
- Kamayan Realty Corporation
- Batangas Land Corporation
- GY Real Estate Incorporation

Aiming for Excellence

THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT CORPORATE Counsel (OGCC) is slowly and surely evolving into an institution that aims to embody legal excellence and corporate values. Tired of being in the sidelines, OGCC now faces legal challenges beyond the courtroom. By strengthening its legal expertise and information campaign, OGCC is out to protect the welfare of GOCCs and the public to the fullest.

The agency started as a Government Counsel Division created through a memorandum issued by Justice Secretary Jose Yulo. Yulo recommended to then President Manuel L. Quezon, the creation of an agency that will handle the legal concerns of Government Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs). During that time, legal conflicts arise as government businesses grew in numbers.

From a Government Counsel Division, OGCC became an attached agency of the Department of Justice, headed by a Government Corporate Counsel (GCC), whose powers and functions are entirely distinct and separate from the Solicitor General.

But it was only in 1987 that the scope of OGCC's authority was clearly defined. Executive Order No. 292 or the Administrative Code of 1987 laid down the metes and bounds of OGCC's mandate.

OGCC's duty

OGCC's mandate is to act as principal counsel in all cases filed for and against GOCCs. It is also directed to control and supervise all legal departments of its client corporations.

On Aug. 1, 2005, the Supreme Court emphasized OGCC's role in the legal arena. In the case of Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) vs Teresita Panlilio-Luciano, the Supreme Court said that the legal department of a GOCC such as LBP cannot prosecute cases alone.

The court further explained that LBP cannot rely on Section 91 of the LBP Charter which allows the creation of its own legal department as an exception to the general rule that OGCC is the principal law office of GOCCs.

OGCC 70
Renewal and New Directions

The Supreme Court issued a stern warning that OGCC will be remiss in its duty if it does not actively participate in handling the cases of GOCCs.

Zero backlog

When Government Corporate Counsel Agnes VST Devanadera assumed office in 2004, she immediately imposed a Zero Backlog Policy. The policy led to major breakthroughs in cases handled by OGCC.

Under the Zero Backlog Policy, OGCC lawyers are required to meet deadlines and file pleadings on time. OGCC lawyers must also attend hearings religiously. Lawyers who fail to appear in hearings without any justifiable reason will be meted out with the appropriate sanction.

"As a manager, I'm strict. But I set attainable goals. I give my staff targets and a particular timeline to achieve these. I make sure that there is consciousness among our lawyers to be accountable for tasks and responsibilities given to them," Devanadera said.

Capability building

The heart of all efforts to make OGCC bolder and stronger as an institution is to strengthen the people within the institution. OGCC created a capability-building team that will accelerate the growth of OGCC and to promote corporate governance and corporate social responsibility. To achieve these goals, OGCC forged partnerships with Asia Foundation, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ateneo de Manila University, College of Law.

OGCC lawyers availed themselves of programs that hone their legal expertise to perfection. OGCC lawyers also complied with the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) program which is a must for those in the legal profession. At present, OGCC has been accredited by the Supreme Court as an MCLE service provided and, as such, conducts trainings not just for OGCC lawyers but also lawyers of client corporations.

Other capability-building programs tackled ways to institutionalize the mechanism of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) which is the current trend in settling conflicts.

The first woman GCC

The incumbent GCC Agnes VST Devanadera is the first woman to head the institution. GCC Devanadera has been in the field of law practice way before she entered the political arena. She worked with De Santos, Balgos, and Perez for 11 years. The said firm is known for its strength in litigation and extensive corporate practice. She began working in the firm as legal researcher and went on to become the Junior Associate and thereafter, the firm's managing partner.

But fate has its way of brining her back to something close to her heart and that is public service. She set aside her flourishing legal career to become the mayor of the municipality of Sampaloc, Quezon - her birthplace and served from 1988 to 1998. While discharging her duties as mayor, she also held various positions as the secretary general of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) and the president of LMP-Quezon in 1992-1995. Then from 1995 to 1998, she was the national president of the League of Municipalities, the first and only woman to hold that post.

After serving as mayor, she became the Undersecretary for Legal and Legislative Affairs of the Department of Interior and Local Government on Aug. 31, 2004.

Devanadera's passion for service is rooted from her orientation and experience as a student leader. During her college days, as head of the Student Catholic Action of St. Paul College, she worked with the people of Kalinga-Apayao. She was also a volunteer worker in the Culion Leper Colony in Palawan and in the slums of Leveriza, Manila.

In all her years in public service, she hurdled challenges without jeopardizing ideals and proved that leaders with vision can make things happen. As the head of OGCC, it is her aspiration to lead the legal institution to greater heights in pursuing the ideals of corporate governance and corporate social responsibility.

OGCC and the future

Despite the heavy mandate imposed upon OGCC and the crucial role it plays in protecting the viability of GOCCs, the legal institution has yet to reach mainstream discourse. OGCC has yet to stir public awareness and to stimulate public interest about its work and its contribution to the vision of achieving a strong republic.

After several years of working in the sidelines, OGCC is determined to be in the thick of events. OGCC aspires to reach out to the public and to explain to them the legal developments that affect the growth and survival of GOCCs.

Indeed, OGCC is now more than ever committed to serve its client corporation and the public. While fortifying its role in corporate governance, OGCC is also defining its role in making this government work.

Office of the Government Corporate Counsel
Key Officials

AGNES VST DEVANADERA
Government Corporate Counsel

EPREN B. GONZALES
Assistant Government
Corporate Counsel
Litigation Division

ELPIDIO J. VEGA
Deputy Government Corporate
Counsel

HERMAN R. CIMAFRANCA
Assistant Government
Corporate Counsel

MANUEL V. FERNANDEZ
Assistant Government
Corporate Counsel

BEL D. DERAYUNAN
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Corporate Counsel

SALVADOR A. CAMANIAN
Assistant Government
Corporate Counsel

ALDA G. REYES
Assistant Govt.
Corporate Counsel
Opinions and Contracts Division

REYNALDO F. TANSIOCO
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RAUL D. RAGANDANG
Assistant Government
Corporate Counsel

RODOLFO C. SABIO
Assistant Government
Corporate Counsel

JOSE MARIE C. CAPILI
Assistant Government
Corporate Counsel

PASKO na!
Sa PCSO December Draw.
Marami ang panalo,
Bigay - Todo Papremyo!
Hinahanap kahit saan.
Yan ang Sweepstakes ticket ...
Walang Kupas.
Kahapon,
Ngayon at Bukas.
Traditional
Sweepstakes
Christmas Draw
DECEMBER 18, 2005
1st Prize - ₱ 10 MILLION
2nd Prize - 2 MILLION
3rd Prize - 1 MILLION
Plus CONSOLATION PRIZES
and Ambos (Last Digit)
SWEEPSTAKES
Yan ang PCSO Walang Kupas
PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE
PCSO Complex E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City

The OGCC FAMILY

POWER SECTOR ASSETS & LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
2/F SGVII Building, 6758 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation congratulates the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel for celebrating its 70th year of service as the premier legal adviser of government-owned and -controlled corporations.

With your timely and constant support, PSALM has gained significant headway in its efforts to privatize the generation and transmission assets of the National Power Corporation. The legal assistance and sound advice you provide have significantly helped PSALM close transactions and forge agreements with other government agencies, private investors and instrumentalities to enable it to achieve its primary objective of restructuring the country's power industry.

Your 70th anniversary celebration is an opportune time to commend the solid gains you have accomplished in serving the government and the general public. As one of our partners in our privatization and restructuring activities, you boost our confidence in reaching our goal of providing Filipino consumers a more stable, reliable and affordable electricity supply.

Congratulations and more power!

Nieves L. Osorio
President and CEO

Indeed, OGCC is now more than ever committed to serve its client corporation and the public. While fortifying its role in corporate governance, OGCC is also defining its role in making this government work

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THE PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY EXTENDS ITS FELICITOUS GREETINGS TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT CORPORATE COUNSEL ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 70TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE ITS DEDICATED SERVICE TO ALL ITS CLIENT - GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS AND ITS ROLE AS THE VANGUARD IN PROMOTING CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE.

Ang Kaunlaran At Kaginhawaan Ng Bawat Mamamayan Ang Adhikain Ng Proyektong...

SERBISYO MUNA!
SERBISYO MUNA!
METRO

Ang minimithing kaunlaran ay ating matatamo sa pamamagitan ng pagtutulungan.
Bawat hakbang ay patungo sa pangarap na magandang bukas kung
kapit-kamay nating paglilingkuran ang mga nangangailangan.
Sa pangunguna ng PAGCOR, nagsama-sama ang mga pangunahing ahensya ng gobyerno
at mga lokal na pamahalaan upang iangat ang pamumuhay ng mga maralita.
Iyan ang diwa ng tunay na pagkakaisa at tapat na paglilingkod.

Pangunahing Tagapag-ugnay
PAGCOR
National Food Authority
Dept of Education
Dept of Health
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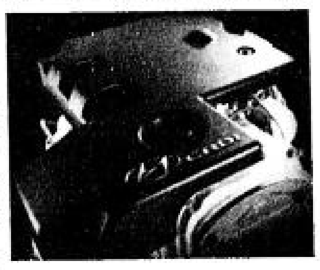
DRIVE YOUR WAY

Having fulfilled its promise of always being there for the customer, as fostered in its previous battle cry, "Always There for You", Hyundai is now embarking on a bigger, bolder journey with its new rallying call, "Drive Your Way". Acknowledging a new generation of motorists, Hyundai continues to develop innovations and advancements suited to the changing times, aware of the implications of oil price increases and issues on environmental protection. Hyundai does its part in resolving these modern day dilemmas utilizing the best Hyundai technology to create innovations that provide optimum fuel-efficiency while ensuring powerful engines that comply with environmental standards. Hyundai pursues the heightening of the human experience through various efforts that fulfill the driver and his responsibility to the world. A sustainable working relationship between automotive products and society is one of the major goals of Hyundai as they provide Green After-Sales Services and the continuous pursuit of environmentally sound vehicles.

A GLIMPSE OF A SUCCESSFUL MOTORSHOW

Another success for Hyundai! Kudos to Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI), exclusive distributor of Hyundai automobiles in the Philippines, on what was most certainly a motorshow to remember!



The **Drive Your Way with Hyundai Motorshow '05** was jam-packed with thousands of people raring to see the new line up of Hyundai vehicles to grace the Glorietta Activity Center, last December 5 to 7, 2005. Here's the Hyundai 2006 line up. The Multi-Purpose Vehicle MATRIX CRDi, family favorite STAREX GRX CRDi, ruggedly stunning TUCSON CRDi, sleek and elegant 3.3 V6 CVVT SONATA and the fast and furious COUPE, along with 3 newly launched machines you're sure to love: the hottest hot hatch in town, GETZ CRDi, the first CRDi-powered sedan ACCENT, and the magnificently luxurious AZERA. Each one giving you the power to *Drive Your Way.*

Aside from the beautiful cars, guests and participants were also held captivated by live entertainment, fun games and activities like dance contests, singing contests and informative audio-visual presentations. As the days unfolded, many participants went back home with rare FIFA (Federation of International Football Associations) collectibles. There really are no dull moments when you're with Hyundai.

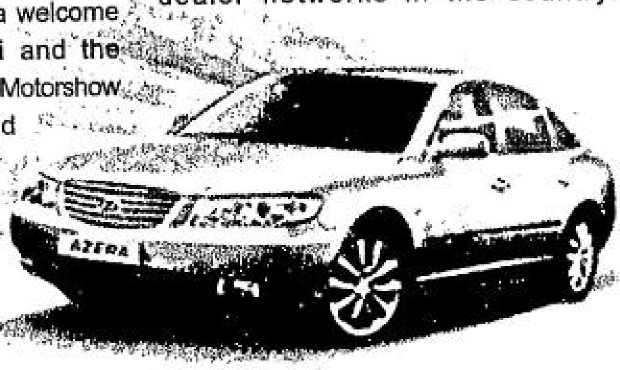
Celebrating with a crowd of such magnitude for 3 whole days was a feat on its own and to have concluded it in grand fashion calls for a trumpet of horns.

It would surely be a welcome thought to have Hyundai and the Drive Your Way with Hyundai Motorshow every year. Perhaps this would be something to look forward to in the years to come.

Congratulations to Hyundai! May there be many more ***Innovations for Humanity*** in the future!

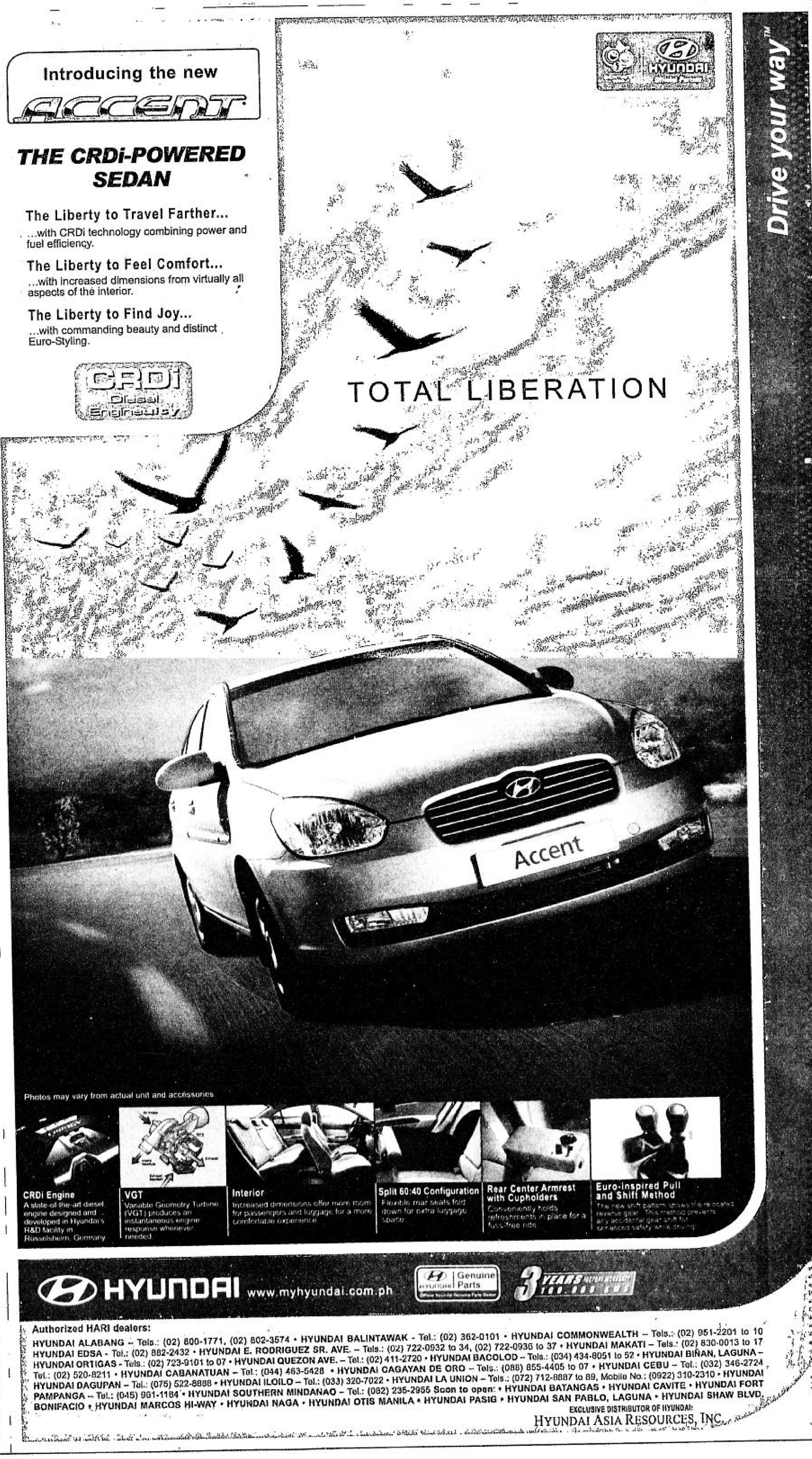
ON BEING A FAST-GROWING DEALER NETWORK IN THE COUNTRY TODAY

Spanning from every point in the country, it seems like there's no stopping Hyundai from becoming one of the most progressive automotive dealer networks in the country.



Wherever you may be, there's always a Hyundai dealer near your vicinity. A total of 18 dealers nationwide, 13 in Luzon and 5 in the Vis-Min area, and with more dealers to open in 2006, you can enjoy the convenience of a Hyundai anywhere you are in the country.

Always ready to provide you the opportunity to find the vehicle tailor-fit to your lifestyle and needs, just drop by any of the dealer branches to learn more about ***Innovation for Humanity*** and the power to Drive Your Way. Go ahead and try any of their models, find the one best suited for you. Friendly customer care personnel attend to your needs and inquiries; it's a family that's always ready to greet you with a smile. So come on and visit the Hyundai branch near you.



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Mabuhay, President Roh Moo-hyun of Korea!

Hyundai Motor Company (HMC) proudly announces the arrival of the honorable President of Korea, Mr. Roh Moo-hyun, in the Philippines.

In this momentous occasion, the Philippines joins HMC as it graciously welcomes President Roh Moo-hyun and supports his endeavor to promote friendship and sustainable development among Asian neighbors.

Hyundai and the nation warmly acknowledge his presence with a resounding 'Mabuhay'!

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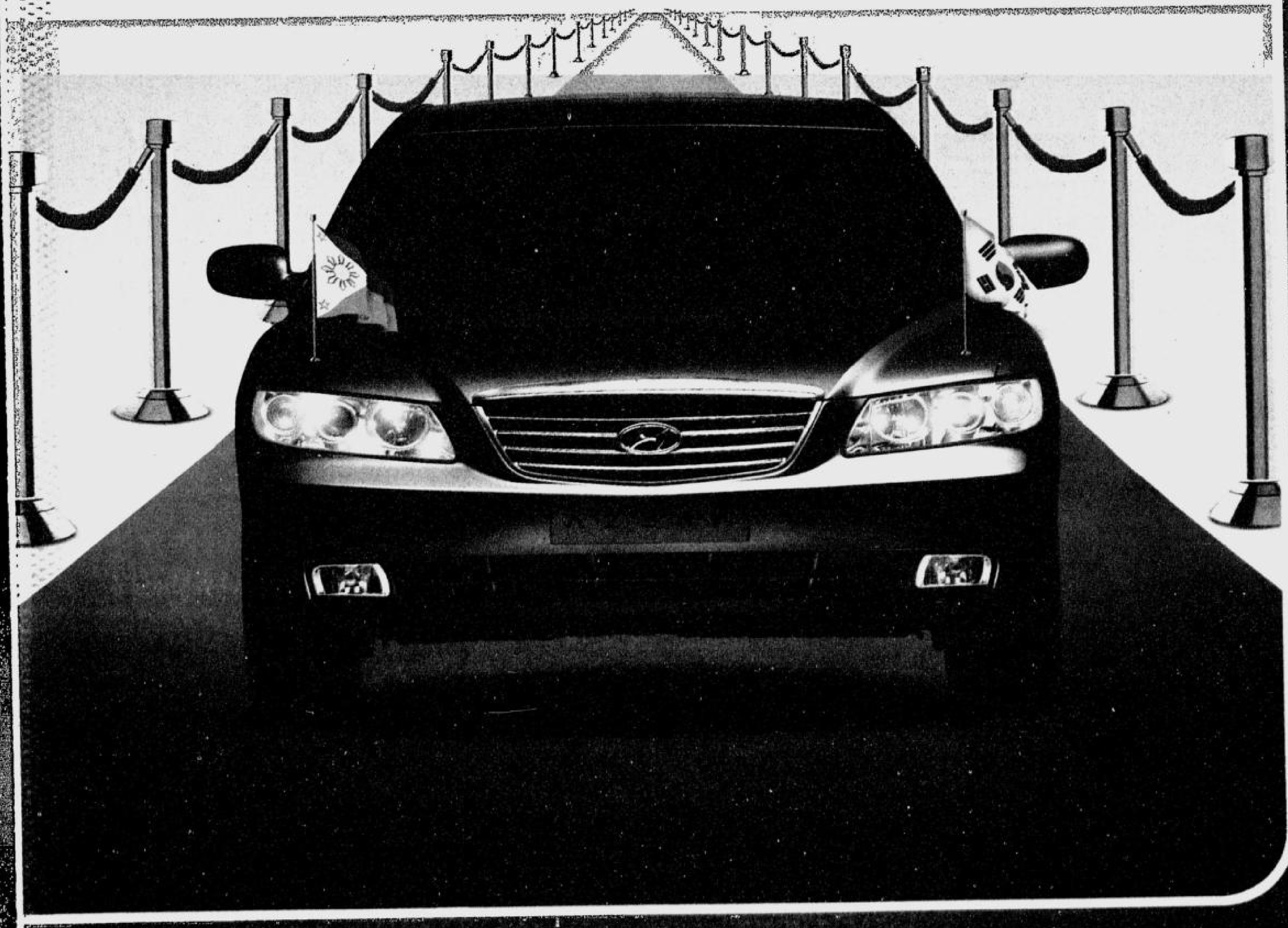

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AUCTION SALE

Marilao-Filipinas Pawnshop, M & R Bldg., Tabing-ilog Marilao, Bulacan. All Unredeemed Pledges of JUNE 2005 willl be Auctioned on DEC. 22, 08:00am. Lanuza & Sons Autioneer. (PDI-DEC. 14, 2005)

Meycauayan-Filipinas Pawnshop,Aliw Complex, Calvario,Meyc.Bulacan.All Unredeemed Pledges of JUNE 2005 willl be Auctioned on DEC. 22, 10:00am. Lanuza & Sons Autioneer.(PDI-DEC. 14,2005)

Muñoz-Filipinas Pawnshop, Roosevelt Ave, Katipunan, Diliman, Quezon City. All unredeemed pledges of JUNE & JULY 2005 will be auctioned on Dec. 22, 2005; 2:30PM. Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer (PDI - December 14, 2005)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ALTAGRACIA PARADERO YUZON & CONRADO YUZON was extrajudicially settled among his heirs with waiver of rights before Notary Public Atty Hector Centeno as per Doc160; Page32; Book 8; Series 2005.
PDI-Nov.30 Dec.7&14, 2005

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JOSIE MARAVILLA ZAMORA has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs per Doc. No. 25 Page No. 5 Book No. VIII Series of 2005 before Notary Public Jaime Discaya of Quezon City.
PDI-Nov.30,Dec.7&14, 2005

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thak You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want us to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen. JABQ

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1. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION, through its approved Corporate Budget of CY 2005 intends to apply the sum of (see schedule under 9) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract as listed below. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected/disqualified at Bid opening.
2. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for GOODS as listed below. Delivery of the GOODS are required by the date indicated in the bid documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino Citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights to privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who shall determine as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM, Monday to Friday. However, issuance of Bidding Documents shall start on December 14, 2005 from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM, Monday to Friday. No Bid Documents will be issued on the date of bidding.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount as listed below. The method of payment will be cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on the dates as listed below at National Power Corporation's available function rooms.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before the dates as listed below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, manager's check, cashiers check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit equivalent to one percent (1%) of the ABC; Bank guarantee equivalent to one and a half percent (1.5%) of the ABC; Surety bond equivalent to two and a half percent (2.5%) of the ABC; Foreign guarantee equivalent to one hundred percent (100%) of the ABC, or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on the dates as listed below at National Power Corporation's available function rooms. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. ITEMS FOR BID

SCHEDULE NUMBER	PR NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT	BID DOCS. PRICE
DATE OF RE-BIDDING/BIDDING: JANUARY 23, 2006; 2:00 PM				
17A1	5PGP-05-129 (JP)	PUMP, TURBINE-VERTICAL ASSEMBLY (PB2)	P 2,100,000.00	P 2,000.00
17A2	5LGP-05-337 (JP)	JOB ORDER FOR THE REFURBISHMENT & RECONDITIONING OF ONE (1) UNIT LGPP HOTWELL PUMP VOLUTE CASING	P 10,000,000.00	P 3,000.00
17A3	5LGP-05-321 (ZC)	JOB ORDER FOR THE OFF-SITE TREATMENT & DISPOSAL OF APPROX. 85 TONS OF HAZARDOUS WASTE MAT'LS GENERATED AT LGPP	P 1,500,000.00	P 1,000.00
DATE OF RE-BIDDING/BIDDING: JANUARY 24, 2006; 2:00 PM				
17B1	OMWA-05-045 (ZC)	J.O. FOR REFORESTATION 2MX3M SPACING (PB2)	P 1,122,800.00	P 1,000.00
17B2	OPRS-05-067 (RA)	JOB ORDER FOR THE ENCLOSURE/ RELOCATION OF PRINTING OFFICE. VAULT & WORKING AREA	P 1,047,475.19	P 1,000.00
DATE OF RE-BIDDING/BIDDING: JANUARY 25, 2006; 2:00 PM				
17C1	2BCF-05-617(JS)	SPARE PARTS OF GRAVIMETRIC COAL FEEDER	P 1,906,800.00	P 1,000.00
17C2	2BCF-05-649 (JS)	BOILER TUBES	P 2,800,000.00	P 2,000.00
17C3	2BCF-05-672 (NY)	SPARE PARTS OF RADIOMETRIC COAL FEEDER (PB2)	P 2,250,000.00	P 2,000.00
17C4	2BCF-05-719 (ZC)	HYDROCHOLRIC ACID	P 3,200,000.00	P 2,000.00
DATE OF RE-BIDDING/BIDDING: JANUARY 26, 2006; 2:00 PM				
17D1	2BCF-05-647 (NY)	GRINDING ROLLER	P 5,700,000.00	P 3,000.00
17D2	2BCF-05-532 (NY)	HARDFACING OF SIX (6) PIECES WORN-OUT CONICAL TYPE GRINDING ROLLS	P 3,630,000.00	P 2,000.00
17D3	2BCF-05-458 (NY)	TRIPLE & DUAL JACKING OIL PUMP (PB2)	P 6,500,000.00	P 3,000.00
17D4	5BDP-05-137 (LS)	GAS INLET/OUTLET CASING (PB2)	P 2,440,000.00	P 2,000.00
DATE OF RE-BIDDING/BIDDING: JANUARY 27, 2006; 2:00 PM				
17E1	3BAC-05-660 (RP)	SHAFT & SUCTION BELL FOR HOTWELL PUMPS (PB2)	P 4,150,000.00	P 2,000.00
17E2	3TPM-05-142 (RP)	PARTS FOR MAIN STOP VALVE (PB2)	P 9,491,100.00	P 3,000.00
17E3	3MGM-05-318 (ZC)	SPARE PARTS FRO UPS SYSTEM	P 1,530,000.00	P 1,000.00

NOTE:A Pre-Bidding Conference will be hold at any available NPC Function Room for the following bidding schedules on:

17A1-17A3	January 10, 2006; 9:00 AM	17D1-17D3	January 13, 2006; 9:00 AM
17B1-17B2	January 11, 2006, 9:00 AM	17E1-17E3	January 17, 2006; 9:00 AM
17C1-17C4	January 12, 2006; 9:00 AM		

10. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
Agham Rd. cor. Quezon Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel No. +632 921 2818
rccardeno@napocor.gov.ph
Fax No. +632 921 7906/921 3382
www.napocor.gov.ph

BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE-PSD

(PDI - Dec. 14, 2005)

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GUIDELINES FOR AUCTION BUYERS (DEC. 15, 2005 AUCTION)

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

1. All monies paid to UCPB prior to execution / notarization of contract to sell shall be considered option money. Option money shall be applied against downpayment / amortization due at the time the applicable contract has been executed and the Buyer has complied with all requirements of the Bank under the Reservation Agreement.
2. All refunds due to buyers shall be without interest or cost of money and shall be in the form of manager's checks made available for pick up at UCPB Head Office. A quitclaim document may be required by UCPB prior to release of the refund.
3. Downpayments may only be accepted in increments of 10%. Additional downpayments may be made but only up to a cut off date of 1 month from auction day. All payment terms must be finalized within this same cut-off date.
4. UCPB reserves the right to cancel the award or not to process the transaction if (i) bidders do not complete the requirements within 30 days from award, (ii) bidders do not comply with any of the guidelines or deadlines disseminated during the auction proper, (iii) UCPB determines (in its sole capacity) that the property is unfit for sale, (iv) if any discrepancies or errors on the prices, terms, details and status of the property are discovered. Cancellation in the event if (i) and (ii) above will result in forfeiture of the reservation fee in favor of UCPB.
5. Any of the following is considered valid identification: (i) current driver's license, (ii) current passport, (iii) current company ID, (iv) SSS or Postal ID, (v) voters ID. All must contain buyers specimen signature.
6. With the exception of properties where Writ of Possession is applicable, buyers shall take full responsibility for the eviction of any occupants on the property.
7. All costs and expenses with respect to surveys, tenant eviction, title deficiency correction or any other deficiency post-award are solely for the Buyers account.
8. Marital conformity on the applicable contract shall be required in case of married buyers (i.e. status at time of execution of the applicable agreement). For legally separated buyers, proof of legal separation shall be submitted within 30 days from auction day.
9. For buyers who will execute the applicable contract through a representative/s, a Special Power of Attorney shall be required. The prescribed format may be obtained from the Auctioneer (Property Forum) or any UCPB AMDD Sales Department employee.
10. Consularization of the applicable contract is required for all buyers and their spouses residing outside the Philippines.
11. The TIN number of all buyers and their spouses is a non-negotiable requirement prior to execution of the applicable contract. This information is required to be submitted within 30 days from auction day.
12. Buyers who submit their signed/notarized contracts to UCPB beyond the cut-off date of 7 days before the month end in which the contract has been notarized shall be liable to pay all penalties and surcharges due on Creditable Withholding Tax.
13. Prospective bidders are duly advised to inquire with the Auctioneer as to all the requirements of UCPB that need to be submitted for the execution of the applicable contract. Prospective bidders are further advised to prepare these requirements in advance to avoid processing delays.

AUCTION PROPER GUIDELINES:

1. **Prospective bidders are duly advised that the auction proper shall begin promptly at 9:30am. Each property shall only be called once, therefore latecomers or bidders who leave the auction premises during the auction proper are at risk in the event a property they wish to bid on is called and they are not present.**
2. Only cash, managers checks and proof of payment at any UCPB branch via Bills Payment Slips (BPS) are acceptable as show money. In case of losing bidders, please be advised that show money in the form of BPS shall be refunded within 7 days from auction day. The show money shall only be presented, not collected, during the registration.
3. Show money of P25,000 (or 10% of the floor price if the price is below P250,000) is strictly on a per property basis. Show money with respect to each property shall be checked and validated during registration.
4. Bidders may designate an authorized representative to bid on his behalf. Such representative must bring a duly signed Letter of Authority with accompanying documents for signature validation purposes. Representative bidders shall be liable as principal in addition to the bidder.
5. Bidders may opt to bid via sealed bid, which must be submitted to UCPB at least 2 business days before auction day. Bids shall be opened in the presence of UCPB's Audit Department at least 1 business day prior to auction day. A bid may be disqualified if it does not conform to the standards set forth in the guidelines. For questions on sealed bidding, please inquire with the Auctioneer (Property Forum) or any UCPB AMDD Sales Department representative.
6. UCPB reserves the right to reject any and all bids for whatever reason it may deem proper. UCPB may also withdraw or amend details of any of the properties in the auction list at anytime.
7. The auction proceedings, including the announcement by the Auctioneer of the increases in the bid price, shall be recorded and witnessed by representatives of UCPB's Audit Department.
8. Falsification of any information shall be a ground for cancellation or rescission of the Conditional Award Certificate. If UCPB determines that any of the information presented by the Winning Bidder has been falsified, the Conditional Award Certificate shall automatically be cancelled. No refunds shall be given in this case.
9. The Conditional Award Certificate is not a document of sale and may be revoked or cancelled by UCPB for any of the reasons described herein.
10. After the issuance of the Conditional Award Certificate but before the execution of the CTS, UCPB is entitled to conduct whatever investigation it determines to be appropriate (i.e. court case checking, credit investigation, etc.) over the Buyers of the properties. Should there be any negative findings, UCPB will have the option to cancel the Conditional Award Certificate. In case UCPB opts to cancel, reservation fee/option monies paid by the Buyers will be refunded.
11. The Winning Bidder shall forfeit his right to purchase the auctioned property if he does not pay the option money or submit the postdated checks to cover the monthly amortization. The Second Highest Bidder shall then be immediately informed of his right to purchase the property, provided it is at the last bid price indicated by the bidder during the auction. This procedure shall continue up to the Third Highest Bidder, after which UCPB has the option to terminate the bidding process.
12. After compliance with all conditions of the sale and the bid price has been paid in full, a Deed of Absolute Sale shall be issued in favor of the Winning Bidder. In the event of installment sales, a Contract to Sell shall be executed. In the event of sales of properties where the WOP has not yet been implemented (with or without cases), an Option Agreement shall be executed.
13. The auctioned properties are sold on "as is where is" basis. As such, except for the conditions and warranties on WOP and certain legal cases, UCPB makes no warranty as to the boundaries, area, technical description of the property, and its legal condition such as the existence of any claims, suits or actions involving the same. It shall be understood that UCPB makes no warranty whatsoever on the authenticity and accuracy of title over the property. Prospective bidders are therefore advised to check the title, the physical and legal condition of the property prior to the bidding.
14. Unless otherwise specified by UCPB, the Buyer shall be required to reimburse UCPB for any taxes, fees, expenses and assessments accruing on the property after the execution / notarization of the applicable contract which have been fully paid / advanced by UCPB.

UCPB

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SPA MANAGER
SPA THERAPIST
PERSONAL FITNESS TRAINER
HAIR & MAKE-UP STYLIST

Resort Hotel Experience Preferred but not essential

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IT Professionals

IT MANAGER
DATABASE PROGRAMMER
(MS SQL)
NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR
GRAPHICS DESIGNER
WEBMASTER

Resort Hotel Experience Preferred but not essential

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TAILORS SEAMSTRESS

Resort Hotel Experience Preferred but not essential

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Security Professionals

CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER
SECURITY SUPERVISOR

Resort Hotel Experience Preferred but not essential

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Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
No. ITB # 2005-016-g
LEASE OF OFFICE SPACES INTENDED FOR PHILHEALTH MEMBERS' ASSISTANCE CENTER AND THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT - NCR GROUP

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), through the Corporate Operating Budget 2005, intends to apply the sum of PhP 4,590,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the LEASE OF OFFICE SPACES INTENDED FOR PHILHEALTH MEMBERS' ASSISTANCE CENTER AND THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT - NCR GROUP. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

PhilHealth now invites Bids from duly licensed companies or business firms to apply for eligibility and to bid for the LEASE OF OFFICE SPACES INTENDED FOR PHILHEALTH MEMBERS' ASSISTANCE CENTER AND THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT - NCR GROUP, with the following specifications:

Location
The location of the building shall be along Shaw Boulevard and within one (1) kilometer radius from the Epifanio delos Santos Avenue (EDSA).

The area must not be prone to flooding.

Space Requirement
The total rentable space requirement shall be from 700 sq. m. to 800 sq. m. broken down as follows:
Ground Floor 250 sq. m. to 300 sq. m. intended for PMAC
Second Floor 500 sq. m. to 600 sq. m. intended for PRO NCR

Parking Requirement
The bidder shall provide at least ten (10) parking spaces for use of PhilHealth and its clients

Period of the Contract
The term of the Contract shall be for a period of Two (2) years, specifically from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2007, subject to renewal.

CY 2004 and CY 2005 is the relevant period for contracts which will be required to be submitted by PhilHealth.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of the Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees (OSBAC) in the Central Office of PhilHealth, Room 1107 11th floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City, and inspect the Bidding Documents from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from December 8 to 20, 2005 at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of PhP 3,000.00 cash. The prospective Bidder or his authorized representative shall receive the Bidding Documents personally.

PhilHealth will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on December 21, 2005, 10:30 a.m. at the OSBAC Conference Room (Rm. 1106), PhilHealth Central Office, 11th floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the OSBAC Conference Room on or before January 9, 2006, 10:30 a.m. The official time shall be based on the wall clock located at the OSBAC Conference Room. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on January 9, 2006, 10:30 a.m. at OSBAC Conference Room. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

PhilHealth reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees in the Central Office
Mr. Joseph O. Vergara
Rm. 1107, 11th Floor Citystate Centre
709 Shaw Blvd., Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City
Tel. (02) 637-9999 locals 1128, 1130 and 1830
E-mail add: osbac@philhealth.gov.ph
Facsimile No. 637-4735
www.philhealth.gov.ph

(Sgd.) Atty. VALENTIN C. GUANIO
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services

(PDI--Dec. 7 & 14, 2005)

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Pag-IBIG Fund, Lucena Regional Office Committee on Disposition of Acquired Assets announces the sale of the following Acquired Assets

PROP#	PROPERTY LOCATION			TCT NO.	LOT AREA	FLR. AREA	SELLING PRICE
O-67	LOT 5100-B-4, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-114280		1000	200,000.00
K-9	LOT 5100-BB-5-B POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-103484		489	61,125.00
L-48	LOT 2713-B-3-E MELANIE SUBD POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-105357		273	68,250.00
K-8	LOT 511-B-5-H-1, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-103488		500	62,500.00
5-C	LOT 2312-A-3, BO. CATURIAN II	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-81761		401	59,900.00
K-7	LOT 33 - I POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-103239	54.80	445	253,400.00
H-16	LOT 2717-B-3-V-9-C-2 POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-100109		300	52,500.00
I-46	LOT32-D,PSD-274055, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-97395		350	63,000.00
H-13	LOT 2717-B-3-V-9-C-4-C POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-100106		407	71,225.00
G-36	LOT 20, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-97544		300	67,500.00
R-61	LOT 3144-B-16-A BO. STA ROSA,	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-119454		571	85,650.00
I-45	LOT32-C, PSD-274055, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-97394		350	63,000.00
I-47	LOT 3144-B-19-H-2-A BGY STA ROSA	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-100100		300	60,000.00
G-13	LOT 5100-A-1-A, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-97397		450	112,500.00
G-1	LOT 2717-B-3-V-9-C-27-B, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-97396		300	52,500.00
L-53	LOT 5100-B-5-F, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-105351		350	52,500.00
J-23	LOT 3144-B-19-H-1 STA.ROSA I,	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-103482	45.44	400	208,443.74
H-14	LOT 2717-B-3-V-9-C-4-D POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-100107		300	52,500.00
L-52	LOT 5100-B-5-G POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-105362		344	51,600.00
G-34	LOT 5100-A-2, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-97398		666	166,500.00
4-C	LOT 1 BO.CATUIRAN	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-81759		400	83,200.00
10-D	LOT 2717-A-4-C-1, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-91512		217	54,250.00
H-15	LOT 2717-B-3-V-9-C-27-C, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-100099		300	52,500.00
L-51	LOT 5100-B-5-H-2 PSD-04-050996	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-105355		356	53,400.00
L-50	LOT 2717-B-3-V-9-C-29-F POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-105354		300	52,500.00
P-37	LOT 2717-A-4-D-2, POBLACION,	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-114282		300	60,000.00
G-30	LOT 2717-B-3-V-9-C-4-A, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-97559		300	52,500.00
N-14	L OT B-4, PSD-238074, PAG-ASA	BANSUD	OR MINDORO	T-109176		4490	622,600.00
L-54	LOT H-2-C-1 POLACION	BANSUD	OR MINDORO	T-105353		400	92,000.00
O-71	LOT 121-FF-9, BO SUMAGUI,	BANSUD	OR MINDORO	T-114285		498	149,400.00
3-D	LOT101-A-3-A-4 SUMAGUI,	BANSUD	OR MINDORO	T-91514		345	88,300.00
N-1	LOT4 BLK8 BATANGAS HTS., SUBD., BO. BOLBOK	BATANGAS CITY	BATANGAS	T-47402		180	486,000.00
O-5	LOT 10 BLOCK 4, BATANGAS HTS SUBD,BOLBOK	BATANGAS CITY	BATANGAS	T-46405		199	537,300.00
I-48	LOT 1 BLK 3 BALIBIL	BONGABONG	OR MINDORO	T-100104	51	298	105,500.00
14-D	LOT 72-P-4-B-1, BRGY. LABASAN	BONGABONG	OR MINDORO	T-91522		350	87,500.00
O-70	LOT 10, BLK. 3,- BALIPIL,	BONGABONG	OR MINDORO	T-114280-A		300	75,000.00
9-D	LOT 62-C-4, BO. LABASAN	BONGABONG	OR MINDORO	T-91521		510	76,500.00
12-D	LOT 121-FF-4, BO. SUMAGUEI	BONGABONG	OR MINDORO	T-91520		300	90,000.00
R-62	LOT 3-D, LABASAN	BONGABONG	OR MINDORO	T-114286	37.20	300	174,875.00
J-25	LOT 121-FF-7, SUMAGUL	BONGABONG	OR MINDORO	T-103238		300	90,000.00
12-F	LOT 21 - A - 4 BO MAYAPA,	CALAMBA	LAGUNA	T-413978	63	457	870,910.00
L-55	LOT 4697-F PSD-04-050887, PANGGALAAN	CALAPAN	OR MINDORO	T-105356		1133	113,300.00
P-39	LOT 6-E-2 CALAWANG	CALAPAN	OR MINDORO	T-119452		400	100,000.00
O-65	LOT 4, TEACHERS VILL, LUMANGBAYAN,	CALAPAN	OR MINDORO	T-113749		341	204,600.00
R-63	LOT 86 BRGY. STO NINO,	CALAPAN	OR MINDORO	T-119453		293	351,600.00
Q-25	LOT H-3-F-6-F-4, LUMANGBAYAN	CALAPAN	OR MINDORO	T-114287	65.60	300	707,000.00
L-92	LOT 6-B-2-D-9 BGY MASIN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-361083		147	58,800.00
N-103	LOT 24 BLK 4, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-377467		188	112,800.00
N-104	LOT 23 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-377466		177	106,200.00
L-93	LOT 6-B-2-D-8, BGY MASIN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-361082		148	59,200.00
N-25	LOT 2-A-1-K-7-B-4, PSD-045605-060164, BO. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-377468		220	165,000.00
Q-30	LOT 26 CARMELA HOMES, MASIN SUR,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	416236		220	165,000.00
R-69	LOT 28 BRGY. MASIN SUR, CARMELA HOMES (GALA MACALINDONG SUBD.)	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-411252		220	165,000.00
L-82	LOT 3-I-6-C EASTERN SPRING SUBD, MALABANBAN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-365289		286	148,000.00
L-83	LOT 12 BLK 10 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-366308		165	115,500.00
M-65	L OT 2-A-1-K-2-B-12, CARMELA HOMES BRGY. MASIN SUR.	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-372490		155	116,250.00
R-70	LOT 4 CARMELA HOMES, MASIN SUR,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	416237		220	143,000.00
N-24	LOT 22 BLK 1, CASSANDRA VILLAGE. BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-376964		274	164,400.00
K-44	LOT A-3-J BRGY. STA CATALINA NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-359232		220	88,000.00
L-87	LOT 15 BLK 10 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-360545		165	113,100.00
L-91	LOT 6-B-2-D-10 BGY MASIN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-361064		147	58,800.00
R-73	LOT 19 BLK 2 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T- 406775		120	96,000.00
L-89	LOT 7 BLK 5 CASANDRA VILLAGE, BO.MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364983		210	126,000.00
L-90	LOT 4 BLK 3 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364043		200	120,000.00
M-66	LOT 16 BLK 9, MARIA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-367830		113	73,450.00
M-67	LOT 32 BLK 9 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-368153		112	72,800.00
R-71	LOT 4 BLK 10 BRGY. MASALUKOT, MA CRISTINA VILL.	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	420011		165	115,500.00
R-72	LOT 5 BLK 10 BRGY. MASALAKOT, MA. CRISTINA VILL.	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	420010		165	115,500.00
N-26	LOT 11 BLK 1, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BRGY. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-376233		269	161,400.00
L-88	LOT 16 BLK 10 MA CRISTINA VILL, BO MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-360546		174	113,100.00
N-33	LOT 2-A-1-K-7-B-2, PSD-045605-060164, BRGY. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-379838		220	165,000.00
L-97	LOT 11 BLK 9 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364282		120	96,000.00
G-46	LOT 33 BLK 1, MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-342744		133	93,100.00
G-45	LOT 32 BLK 1, MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-342743		133	93,100.00
I-14	LOT 14 BLK 10 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO.MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-353257		165	107,250.00
I-22	LOT 3 BLK 5 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-352069		210	126,000.00
K-50	LOT 28 BLK 7 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357519		120	96,000.00
K-51	LOT 29 BLK 7, MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357520		120	96,000.00
K-49	LOT 27 BLK 7 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357518		120	96,000.00
K-48	LOT 26 BLK 7 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357517		120	96,000.00
K-47	LOT 29 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-354216		167	100,200.00
N-31	LOT 8 BLK 6. MA. CRISTINA VILLAGE. BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-378710		165	107,250.00
M-70	LOT 2-A-1-K-B-7, CARMELA HOMES. BRGY. MASIN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-366894		130	97,500.00
L-104	LOT 24 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364875		274	164,400.00
K-54	LOT 17 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-358318		191	114,600.00
O-32	LOT 2-A-1-K-7-D-3, BRGY. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	416238		220	165,000.00
O-31	LOT 22 CARMELA HOMES, BO MASIN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-408012		220	154,000.00
I-24	LOT 32 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-353256		274	164,400.00
N-34	LOT 23 PSD-045605-060164, CARMELA HOMES. BO. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-372453		220	165,000.00
N-35	LOT 10, PSD-04-05605-060164, CARMELA HOMES, MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-375832		220	165,000.00
I-16	LOT 5 BLK 8 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-354187		120	96,000.00
I-25	LOT 8 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-353422		222	133,200.00
N-32	LOT 7 BLK 6, MARIA CRISTINA VILL.AGE, BRGY. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-378711		165	107,250.00
L-98	LOT 21 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO.MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364980		190	114,000.00
R-74	LOT 18 BLK 2 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-406502		120	96,000.00
N-105	LOT 19 BLK 1, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-375833		297	178,200.00
L-94	LOT 11 PSD-04-005641, GALA MACALINDONG SUBD., BUCAL	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364237		226	101,700.00
O-40	LOT 6, CARMELA HOMES, BRGY. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-386959		220	165,000.00
R-76	LOT 1-A-3-B-3 ST. PETER AND PAUL SUBD. BRGY. PAHINGA	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-377700		252	100,800.00
G-41	LOT 15 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-342855		191	114,600.00
M-69	LOT 19 BLK 4, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-373201		190	114,000.00
L-96	LOT 10 BLK 9 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364281		120	96,000.00
N-107	LOT A-3-1 STA. CATALINA NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-384384		220	88,000.00
K-46	LOT 28 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-354191		161	96,600.00
N-27	LOT A-3-B, PSD-04-050558, BO. STA. CATALINA	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-379839		220	88,000.00
R-75	LOT 20 BLK 2 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-402050		120	96,000.00
N-28	L OT 14, PSD-045605-060164, CARMELA HOMES. BO. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-373153		220	165,000.00
O-41	LOT 2-A-1-K-7-B-10,CARMELA HOMES,BRGY. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-386960		220	165,000.00
O-59	LOT 13 BLK 8 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO.MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-386958		120	96,000.00
O-57	LOT 2 BLK 8 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-375889		120	96,000.00
K-45	LOT 18 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-353219		192	115,200.00
G-42	LOT 5 BLK 5 CASANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-338000		210	126,000.00
L-99	LOT 10 BLK 5, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-384283		201	120,600.00
O-53	LOT 2-A-1-K-7-B-7, CARMELA HOMES, MASIN,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-384831		220	176,000.00
I-21	LOT 3 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-352254		217	130,200.00
I-20	LOT 11 BLK5 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-352070		199	119,400.00
K-23	LOT 18 BLK 8 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-356690		120	78,000.00
M-64	LOT 2-D-3-F, BRGY. MALABANBAN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-372704		300	135,000.00
K-19	LOT 20 BLK 8 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-359102		120	96,000.00
K-20	LOT 22 BLK 8 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-359101		112	89,600.00
K-18	LOT 21 BLK 8 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-359100		120	96,000.00
O-50	LOT 18, BGY. MASIN, CARMELA HOMES	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-384833		220	165,000.00
I-19	LOT 27 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-352859		274	164,400.00
O-39	LOT 13 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO.MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-396148		255	153,000.00
R-68	LOT 17 BGY. MASIN,CARMELA HOMES,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	416233		220	143,000.00
R-67	LOT 10 BLK 10 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-398890		165	132,000.00
G-21	LOT 5 BLK 4 CASANDRA VILLAGE, MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-345236		219	131,400.00
L-66	LOT 3-I-9-G-1 BRGY. MALABANBAN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364210		300	132,000.00
K-24	LOT 19 BLK 8 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-356691		120	78,000.00
K-22	LOT 17, BLK 8 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-356661		120	78,000.00
G-22	LOT 4 BLK 5 CASANDRA VILLAGE, MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-338004		210	126,000.00
L-71	LOT 31 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364242		172	103,200.00
L-72	LOT 30 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364241		173	103,800.00
G-23	LOT 2-D-3-H BO MALABANBAN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-343191		250	112,500.00
O-52	LOT 22, CARMELA HOMES, MASIN SUR,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-384830		220	165,000.00
M-61	LOT 30 BLK 1, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-369990		274	164,400.00
G-24	LOT 15 BLK 6 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-347553		165	132,000.00
K-21	LOT 5 BLK 3 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-360489		200	120,000.00
G-7	LOT 34 BLK 1 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-343011		133	93,100.00
L-62	LOT 5 BLK 2 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364874		254	152,400.00
K-13	LOT 25 BLK 1,CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO.MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357207		274	164,400.00
N-93	LOT 24 PSD-045608-060590, CARMELA HOMES, BRGY. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-384463		220	165,000.00
L-64	LOT 8 BLK 2 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364046		269	161,400.00
P-45	LOT 25 CARMELA HOMES, MASIN,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-394900		220	165,000.00
H-29	LOT 8 BLK 2, MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-350343		120	96,000.00
I-17	LOT 6 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILL.AGE BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-353421		220	132,000.00
G-6	LOT 15 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-345235		302	181,200.00
R-66	LOT 11 BLK 10 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-398691		165	132,000.00
G-8	LOT 35 BLK 1 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-343012		133	106,400.00
O-26	LOT 11, CARMELA HOMES, MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	416234		220	165,000.00
L-65	LOT 1 BLK 3 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364042		214	128,400.00
M-59	LOT 2-A-1-K-7-B-3, CARMELA HOMES, BRGY. MASIN SUR,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T369991		220	165,000.00
I-2	LOT 25 BLK 7 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-352648		120	78,000.00
I-18	LOT 26 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-352860		274	164,400.00
O-47	LOT 9 BRGY. MASIN,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-384662		220	165,000.00
R-65	LOT 8 BLK. 3, CASSANDRA VILL, MANGILAG,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-385188		214	128,400.00
M-60	LOT 20 BLK 1, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-370615		288	172,800.00
O-48	LOT 21 BLK. 1, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BRGY. MANGILAG,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-385769		278	166,800.00
O-49	LOT 27 BLK. 4, CASSANDRA VILL, MANGILAG,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-385187		180	108,000.00
Q-29	LOT2-A-1-K-2-B-1, BRGY. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-406013		161	104,650.00
I-11	LOT 12 BLK 7 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-354336		120	96,000.00
K-39	LOT 11 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-354295		193	115,800.00
O-45	LOT 6 BLK. 8, MA CRISTINA VILL, MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-373685		120	96,000.00
O-46	LOT 7 BLK. 8, MA CRISTINA VILL, MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-373686		120	96,000.00
L-76	LOT 2 BLK 3 CASANDRA VILLAGE,BO MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-360543		200	120,000.00
M-113	LOT 2-A-1-K-7-D-4, CARMELA HOMES, BRGY. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-370681		220	165,000.00
N-99	LOT 7, PSD-045605-060164, BRGY. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-377137		220	165,000.00
K-40	LOT 6 BLK 3 CASSANDRA VILLAGE,BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357248		200	120,000.00
N-105	LOT 5 PSD-045608-060590, BRGY. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-375831		220	165,000.00
G-25	LOT 16 BLK 6 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-347554		174	139,200.00
N-21	LOT 2-A-1-K-7-B-5, CARMELA HOMES. BO. MASIN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-378709		220	165,000.00
H-24	LOT 23 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-348928		274	164,400.00
I-12	LOT 11 BLK 7 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-354335		120	78,000.00
N-22	LOT 2-A-1-K-2-B-9, CARMELA HOMES, BO MASIN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-378712		130	97,500.00
P-46	LOT 25 CARMELA HOMES (GALA MACALINDONG SUBD). MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-406529		220	143,000.00
N-23	LOT 2-A-1-K-7-B-6, CARMELA HOMES, BO. MASIN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-376234		220	165,000.00
L-78	LOT 2-D-1-E ALIVIA SUBD, MALABANBAN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364240		216	97,200.00
O-33	LOT 22 BLK 2 CASSANDRA VILLAGE. BO.MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-407334		207	124,200.00
L-81	LOT31 BLK 1 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-366907		133	106,400.00
L-80	LOT30 BLK 1 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-366906	46.20	133	118,510.00
K-42	LOT A-3-K BRGY. STA CATALINA NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357307		220	88,000.00
L-77	LOT 2-D-1-F ALIVIA SUBD,MALABANBAN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-360544		400	180,000.00
K-30	LOT 30 BLK 9 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-356023		120	78,000.00
K-43	LOT 7 BLK 3 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-355869		200	120,000.00
J-37	Lot 2-D-3-E BRGY., MALABANBAN,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	I-359099		199	89,550.00
G-27	LOT 12 BLK 2 CASSANDRA VILLAGE. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-342856		136	81,600.00
G-28	LOT 13 BLK 2 CASSANDRA VILLAGE. BO.MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-342857		159	95,400.00
K-25	LOT 21 BLK 2 CASSANDRA VILLAGE,BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-355870		179	107,400.00
5-A	LOT14 BLK3 CASSANDRA VILLAGE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-319191		200	120,000.00
G-31	LOT 28 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-342413		274	164,400.00
K-27	LOT12, BLK9 MA CRISTINA VILL,CANDELARIA	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357065		120	78,000.00
K-28	LOT13, BLK9 MA CRISTINA VILL,CANDELARIA	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357066		120	78,000.00
K-38	LOT 9 BLK 5 CASSANDRA VILLAGE,BO.MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-354183		206	123,600.00
K-26	LOT 14 BLK 9 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357067		120	78,000.00
K-37	LOT A-3-H STA CATALINA NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357306		220	88,000.00
K-31	LOT 31 BLK 9 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-356024		120	78,000.00
K-32	LOT A-3-G BRGY. STA CATALINA NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357516		220	88,000.00
K-33	LOT A-2-C STA CATALINA NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357589		220	88,000.00
K-34	LOT A-2-B STA CATALINA NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357588		220	99,000.00
N-18	LOT 2-A-1-K-7-B-9, CARMELA HOMES, BO. MASIN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-376141		220	165,000.00
7	LOT 5-A-2-B-1-1,BO. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-311086		343	240,211.06
G-35	LOT 7 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE. BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-343013		221	132,600.00
K-36	LOT A-4-F BGY STA CATALINA, NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357141		241	120,500.00
M-62	LOT 11 BLK 2, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-370616		139	83,400.00
K-29	LOT 15 BLK 9 MA CRISTINA VILL AGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-356022		120	96,000.00
P-42	LOT 39 BLK 2 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-410128		120	96,000.00
G-59	LOT 10 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-343188		205	123,000.00
G-55	LOT A-3-F- STA CATALINA NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-343161		220	88,000.00
O-28	LOT A-2-E STA CATALINA NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	413781-A		220	99,000.00
L-111	LOT 18 BLK 2 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-366572		185	111,000.00
N-53	LOT 9 BLK 4, CASSANDRA VILLAGE., BRGY. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-376143		204	122,400.00
M-73	L OT 1-A-3-8-7, ST PAUL SUBD., BRGY. PAHINGA	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-366895		419	167,600.00
G-65	LOT 10 BLK 2 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-345266		313	187,800.00
K-59	LOT 3 BLK 3 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-355702		200	120,000.00
N-113	LOT 19 BLK 2, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-377100		182	109,200.00
O-43	LOT 25, BLK. 3, MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-381112		120	96,000.00
N-47	LOT A-2-G, PSD-04-046400, BRGY. STA. CATALINA	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-379836		220	88,000.00
G-67	LOT 33 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-342742		285	171,000.00
G-56	LOT 16 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-342188		191	114,600.00
R-77	L2-A-1-K-7-D-1,CARMELA HOMES, MASIN,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	416235		220	143,000.00
G-66	LOT 29 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-342414		274	164,400.00
K-58	LOT 4 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE,BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357254		218	130,800.00
N-42	LOT 12 BLK 6 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-379716		165	132,000.00
O-56	LOT 8,CARMELA HOMES, MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-385189		220	165,000.00
N-48	LOT 2-A-1-K-2-B-11, PSD-045608-060590 , BRGY. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-379714		130	97,500.00
M-74	LOT 15 BLK 3, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-372767		200	120,000.00
N-45	LOT 12 PSD-045605-060164, CARMELA HOMES, MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-379771		220	165,000.00
I-27	LOT 16 BLK 2 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-354147		190	114,000.00
N-44	LOT 2 BLK 5, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-379709		210	126,000.00
N-50	LOT 1-A-1-K-7-8-11, PSD-045605-060164, BRGY. MASIN,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-379717		220	165,000.00
L-112	LOT 15 BLK 2 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-384263		223	133,800.00
Q-27	LOT A-2-D STA CATALINA NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	413781		220	99,000.00
N-49	LOT 16 BLK 3, CASSANDRA VILLAGE., BRGY. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-375694		214	128,400.00
P-43	LOT 40 BLK 2 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-410127		120	96,000.00
P-41	LOT 41 BLK 2 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-410128		120	96,000.00
N-40	LOT 13 BLK 6,MA.CRISTINA VILLAGE,MASALAKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-372094		165	107,250.00
N-39	LOT 14 BLK 6, MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-373688		165	107,250.00
L-122	LOT 16 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE,BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-+365290		294	176,400.00
N-46	LOT A-2-F, PSD-04046400, BRGY. STA. CATALINA	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-379837		220	99,000.00
N-54	LOT 9 BLK 3, GALA MACALINDONG SUBD., BUKAL	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-376140		322	225,400.00
M-70	LOT 2 BLK 4, CASSANDRA VILLAGE. BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-372703		217	130,200.00
M-75	LOT 2—A-1-K-7-B-1, CARMELA HOMES, BRGY. MASIN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-372093		220	165,000.00
O-55	LOT 8 BLK. 5, CASSANDRA VILL. MANGILAG,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-385768		210	126,000.00
N-41	LOT 11 BLK 6 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE.BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-379715		165	115,500.00
P-44	LOT 2-A-1-K-7-D-5 CARMELA HOMES,MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-406530		220	176,000.00
K-57	LOT A-5-B BGY STA CATALINANORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-360553		220	88,000.00
R-78	LOT1-A-3-B-2 PAHINGA I,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-394037		218	87,200.00
K-55	LOT 17 GALA MACALINDONG SUBD, MAHARLIKA HWAY,BUKAL	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-359231		349	157,050.00
O-54	LOT 2-A-1-K-5-A, GALA MACALINDONG SUBD MASIN,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-384832		250	200,000.00
K-56	LOT A-5--C BGY STA CATALINA NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-360552		220	88,000.00
L-116	LOT 29 BLK9 , MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-366575		120	78,000.00
L-113	LOT 30 BLK 2 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE.BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-366904		120	84,000.00
P-40	LOT 4549-A BUKAL SUR(NOW TAGUAN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-376156	51.96	123	111,650.00
G-60	LOT 31 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-343187		274	164,400.00
L-118	LOT 28 BLK 9, MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-366573		120	78,000.00
M-80	LOT 2-D-3-A, BRGY. MALABANBAN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-372479		400	180,000.00
H-27	LOT 10 BLK 6 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-349303		165	132,000.00
H-28	LOT 9 BLK 6 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-349302		165	132,000.00
M-84	LOT 16 BLK 8, MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BRGY. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-372702		120	78,000.00
R-79	LOT 3,PAG-IBIG SUBD,MADULAO&PACABIT	CATANAUAN	QUEZON	T-385773	36	135	229,200.00
N-101	LOT 6 BLK 13, PAG-IBIG PARK SUBD., BO. PACABIT/MADULAO	CATANAUAN	QUEZON	T-376297	65.24	135	243,600.00
G-49	LOT 10 BLK 3 , BO MALIGAYA	GLORIA	OR MINDORO	T-97558		300	90,000.00
7-D	LOT 10 BLK 7, POBLACION	GLORIA	OR MINDORO	T-91513		262	104,800.00
O-69	LOT 12 BLK. 7, POB	GLORIA	OR MINDORO	T-113751		262	104,800.00
L-49	LOT 3 BLK 4 POBLACION	GLORIA	OR MINDORO	T-105358		300	90,000.00

(Continued on next page)

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Pag-IBIG Fund, Lucena Regional Office Committee on Disposition of Acquired Assets announces the sale of the following Acquired Assets

PROP#	PROPERTY LOCATION			TCT NO.	LOT AREA	FLR. AREA	SELLING PRICE
N-16	LOT 4-B-2-G, PSD-141360, POB. MUN. OF GLORIA	GLORIA	OR MINDORO	T-109177		600	180,000.00
R-80	LOT 2 BLK 5 LUZVILLE SUBD BO. MABINI	GUMACA	QUEZON	T-375461	164.62	180	288,465.00
N-3	LOT 2209 CADASTRAL SURVEY OF LIPA BO. MALALIM NA LODLOD	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-128425	122	289	964,333.33
R-4	LOT 16 BLK 23 TRANSVILLE HOMES, B-BANAY	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-146383		40	92,000.00
R-9	LOT 12 BLK 6 TRANSVILLE HOMES, B-BANAY,	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-136499	20	40	146,000.00
M-8	LOT 10 BLK 16 Romana Aeroville Subd., Brgy. Tibig	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-126820		152	98,800.00
N-7	LOT 1609-B-2-B-5-B BGY TIBIG	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-128018		448.50	224,250.00
O-17	LOT 21 BLOCK 1, SUNRISE VILL IV, BOLBOK,	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-132061		60	90,000.00
P-2	LOT 10050-C-2 BGY BULACNIN	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-136500		322	177,100.00
R-5	LOT 18 BLK 23 TRANSVILLE HOMES, B-BANAY,	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-146382	31.5	40	231,420.00
M-2	LOT 5412-A NEAR BAGONG POOK,BANAYBANAY	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-125847	120	542	2,775,000.00
R-10	LOT 14 BLK 14 TRANSVILLE HOMES, B-BANAY,	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-143999	34.40	42.70	211,730.00
P-7	LOT 8 BLK 23 TRANSVILLE HOMES, B-BANAY,	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-134702	26.40	40	168,784.00
M-18	LOT 24 BLK 16, BO. MATAAS NA LUPA	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-126662		186	111,600.00
L-157	LOT 423 INT. CM RECTO AVE	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-124811	123	287	2,121,750.00
M-11	LOT 1609-B-2-B-6-A Brgy. Tiblg.	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-126666		447.50	223,750.00
Q-2	LOT 7 BLK 28 TRANSVILLE HOMES, B-BANAY	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-143749	31.50	60	234,816.00
O-8	LOT 1-B, GATPOLINTAN ST,	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-131940		65	680,000.00
O-14	LOT 1666-F-10, BOS. BUAL & TAMBO,	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-132342		190	171,000.00
R-2	LOT 16 BLK 24 TRANSVILLE HOMES, BANAY-BANAY	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-146387	48	40	325,920.00
R-3	LOT 18 BLK 24 TRANSVILLE HOMES,BRGY. B-BANAY,	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-146388		40	92,000.00
L-2	LOT 6 BLK 16 ROMANA AEROVILLE SUBD,TIBIG	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-125637		165	99,000.00
M-5	LOT 7272-B, BRGY. PINAGTUNGOLAN	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-125848	60	246	325,200.00
L-4	LOT 1686-E-1, BRGY TIBIG	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-124812		968.50	363,187.50
R-8	LOT 4 BRGY. LATAG	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-128205	108	432	831,000.00
R-15	L13405-C-10, INOSLUBAN,	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	P-669		261.50	130,750.00
M-10	LOT 16 BLK 3 St. Joseph Village Annex, Brgy. Tibig	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-126663		167	158,650.00
10-B	LOT9 BLK 4 PENHOMES SUBD. BO. BEBITO	LOPEZ	QUEZON	T-323322		122	97,600.00
R-81	LOT 6 BLK 11 COUNTRYSIDE VILL. AYUTI	LUCBAN	QUEZON	418316	22.95	60.50	232,034.00
P-73	LOT 9 BLK 4 PH I LUCENA MOTORPOOL VILL, MAYAO,	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110648		130	156,000.00
13	LOT 2057-A-4-C-2-B-2-C, IYAM DISTRICT	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-82692		251	188,250.00
L-126	LOT 2245A-6-C, UNITED HOMES COTTA	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-96852		180	126,000.00
R-82	LOT 11 BLK. 1 ATIS ST, CALMAR HOMES PH V-C KAN.MAYAO,LUCENA	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	112013	30	75	384,000.00
R--90	LOT 5 BLOCK 9, RJ VILLE IBA. MAYAO,	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-107192	40	100	410,000.00
RTO	LOT 16 BLK 10, DAU ST CALMAR HOMES, KAN MAYAO	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-96853	36	100	358,000.00
O-29	LOT 3187-A-1-C, PUROK PAG-KAKAISA BRGY. G- GULANG	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-105148		225	157,500.00
N-82	LOT 4 BLK 34, PRINCETONE ST., PLEASANTVILLE SUBD.,IYAM	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-96850	39	102	467,550.00
Q-34	LOT 8 BLK 15 BGY IX PANTOK, LA MILAGROSA SUBD	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-114364		231	462,000.00
R-88	LOT 6 BLK 5 MOTORPOOL VILL, MAYAO	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	110873		146	292,000.00
Q-40	LOT 27 BLK 5 MOTORPOOL VILL,MAYAO	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-114349		120	144,000.00
N-76	L OT 4851-K-PSD-44869, BO. COTTA	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-101537	103.7	303	514,500.00
R-87	LOT 19 BLK 3 CALMAR HOMES PH3 KAN MAYAO	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	110475	36	108	473,400.00
N-75	LOT 13 BLK 15, BAYABAS ST., MARKETVIEW SUBD.,	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-100755		198	158,400.00
L-127	LOT 8 BLK 3 TEOFILA VILL.BEL-AIR SUBD	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-96620		143	228,800.00
L-150	LOT 11 BLK 5, TEACHERS VILL., VICTOR ANGELO ST., COTTA	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-96622	40.5	90	323,100.00
Q-46	LOT 9 BLK 6 LUCENA MOTORPOOL VILLAGE ,MAYAO	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110984		118	159,300.00
3	L29B16 ZABALLERO SUBD, G-GULANG	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-82694		280	196,363.00
O-30	LOT 3197-A-1-A, G- GULANG	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-105149		165	115,500.00
R-85	LOT 30 BLK 7, H FAUSTA VILLAGE, BO ISABANG	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110225	57.70	150	485,800.00
P-66	LOT 8 BLK 11 LUCENA MOTORPOOL PH II	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-107252		125	125,000.00
L-154	LOT 10-A NETHERLANDS ST,UNIVERSITY SITE	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-97128	63.66	86	373,600.00
Q-36	LOT 6 BLK 3 MOTORPOOL VILL PH2 MAYAO	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-114363		131	104,800.00
P-67	LOT 7 BLK 11 LUCENA MOTORPOOL PH II	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-107251		122	122,000.00
RTO	LOT 13A B1 CIUDAD MAHARLIKA IYAM	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-96623	90	187	1,045,000.00
R-86	LOT 8 BLK 1 PH 2 MOTORPOOL VILL MAYAO	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-114348		162	194,400.00
I-32	LOT 15 BLK 8 LUCENA MOTORPOOL VILLAGE	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-93839		100	120,000.00
1-B	LOT 2057-A-1-C-2-B, BO. IYAM	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-82723		500	350,000.00
P-63	LOT 2 BLK 11 MOTORPOOL VILLAGE PH 2, MAYAO,	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110990		120	120,000.00
P-76	LOT 13 BLK 3 LUCENA MOTORPOOL VILLAGE, MAYAO,	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-119078		133	156,000.00
R-101	LOT 31 BLK 5 CLAYTON COR.NORTHBROOK ST. PLEASANTVILLE	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	110671		175	525,000.00
P-64	LOT 4 BLK 12 MOTORPOOL VILLAGE. BO MAYAO,	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-105648		170	170,000.00
P-68	LOT 5 BLK 4 LA MILAGROSA SUBD,PANTOC DIST,	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110439		239	239,000.00
L-125	LOT 2245 A-6-E UNITED HOMES, SUBD, COTTA	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-96238		180	126,000.00
Q-42	LOT 5-A OHIO ST,UNIVERSITY VILLAGE, BO.IBA. DUPAY	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-104490	63	138	486,000.00
Q-48	LOT 12 BLK 11 LUCENA MOTORPOOL VILLAGE, MAYAO	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110472		120	120,000.00
Q-39	LOT 28 BLK 3 LUCENA MOTORPOOL VILLAGE, MAYAO,	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T110986		100	80,000.00
6	LOT 3651-C-1-A, KANLURANG MAYAO	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-82691		600	480,097.00
P-47	LOT 7 BLK 5 LUCENA MOTORPOOL VILL,MAYAO	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110319		120	102,000.00
R-83	LOT 16 BLK 22-A ZABALLERO SUBD., GULANG GULANG	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-95171		342	442,000.00
R-89	LOT 10 BLK 2 PETUNIA ST., VILLA AUREA SUBD, DOMOIT	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110445	66.10	153	714,833.00
L-160	LOT 3179-E-2 GULANG GULANG	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-96851	54	78	620,700.00
P-59	LOT 3 BLK 4 SAN RAFAEL VILLAGE, DALAHICAN	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110443		129.66	116,694.00
Q-47	LOT 1 BLK 3 SAN RAFAEL VILLAGE SUBD., DALAHICAN	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110907		154	138,600.00
R-84	LOT 1 BLK 4 SAN RAFAEL VILLAGE, DALAHICAN	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	110909		122.97	86,079.00
P-65	LOT 36 BLK 7 LUCENA MOTORPOOL VILLAGE	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110231		104	124,800.00
N-79	LOT 23 BLK 16, AFGHANISTAN ST., BETTER LIVING SUBD., IYAM	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-101519		286	486,200.00
Q-41	LOT 6 BLK 4 ST. VINCENT ST., NORTH EMPLOYEES VILLAGE, G-GULANG	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110647	64.40	180	773,000.00
N-95	LOT 6869-A, BRGY. III	MATAAS NA KAHOY	BATANGAS	T-112312		460	322,000.00
R-91	LOT 6-D NATIONAL ROAD, POBLACION II	MULANAY	QUEZON	T-377135	70	355	298,500.00
L-57	LOT 1-A-5-F, PSD-04-051086, POBLACION I, SANTIAGO	NAUJAN	OR MINDORO	T-105348		300	240,000.00
K-2	LOT 855-C-52, DAMAVILLE SUBD., BAWI	PADRE GARCIA	BATANGAS	T-105495	60	290	214,000.00
M-24	LOT 1076-A BO TAMAK	PADRE GARCIA	BATANGAS	T-106795	71	393	352,200.00
M-25	LOT 885-C-58, PSD-04-019402, BRGY. BAWI	PADRE GARCIA	BATANGAS	T-108166		233	139,800.00
M-26	LOT 855-C-56, PSD-04-019402, DAMAVILLE SUBD., BO. BAWI	PADRE GARCIA	BATANGAS	T-108165		225	135,000.00
K-4	LOT 855-C-54 DAMAVILLE SUBD., BAWI	PADRE GARCIA	BATANGAS	T-106013		217	130,200.00
K-1	LOT 855-C-53 DAMAVILLE SUBD., BAWI	PADRE GARCIA	BATANGAS	T-106012		213	127,800.00
K-3	LOT 855-C-55, DAMAVILLE SUBD.,BAWI	PADRE GARCIA	BATANGAS	T-105496		221	132,600.00
P-79	LOT 24 BLK 2 KRISANTA VILL.BGY.BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-379712	32	80	252,800.00
R-93	LOT 12-B BLK 8 PENINSULA HOMES BO.BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-416073		120	192,000.00
Q-57	LOT 13-B BLK 8 PENHOMES, BGY. BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-385166		120	192,000.00
12-A	LOT 19 BLK 10-B PENHOMES, BO. BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-319122		252	504,000.00
Q-56	Lot 18-A B8, PENINSULA HOMES, BO. BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-368181	64	120	268,000.00
R-92	LOT 4 BLK 10-B PENINSULA HOMES,BO. BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-377701		171	342,000.00
K-62	LOT 20 BLK 8 PENINSULA HOMES, BO. BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-345287		262	827,188.00
L-133	LOT 1428-A-17 BO. BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-366306		277	498,600.00
O-54	LOT 13-A , BLK 8 PENINSULA HOMES, BO BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-375691	42	120	286,000.00
P-78	LOT 11 BLK 2 MERAMAR SUBD, MAPAGONG	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-406532	30	155	413,000.00
R-95	LOT 24 BLK 2 PINAGBAYANAN,	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	418315		117	166,050.00
N-111	LOT 19 BLK 5, INTERTOWN HOMES PH. 2, BO. BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-376296		194	320,100.00
Q-49	LOT 22-A BLK 6 MERAMAR VILL. BRGY. MAPAGONG	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-411269	.32.4	87.5	296,000.00
O-55	LOT 2-B BLK 8 PENHOMES, BGY BUCAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-377699		114	182,400.00
18	LOT 5 BLK 10-B PENHOMES, BO BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-298658		253	455,400.00
G-51	LOT 6-B BLK 8 PENINSULA HOMES, BO. BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-343174		119	202,300.00
Q-50	LOT 32 BLK 2 KRISANTA VILLAGE, BGY.BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-384624	38	80	272,233.33
Q-53	LOT 2 BLK 13 CATTLEYA ST. INTERTOWN HOMES,	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-408533	32	80	247,200.00
R-94	LOT 15 BLK 2, BRGY. PINAGBAYANAN	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	418571		118	76,700.00
Q-52	LOT 2 BLK 3 KRISANTA VILLAGE, BO. BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-385570	47	80	241,066.67
J-22	LOT 1 BLK 1 GREENLAND SUBD, STA CLARA NORTE	PILA	LAGUNA	T-196365	40	188	245,200.00
L-159	LOT 4 STO NINO	PINAMALAYAN	OR MINDORO	T-105359	78	801	213,800.00
Q-58	L 6933-A-2, BGY TANAUAN,	PLARIDEL	QUEZON	T-393591	74.20	524	403,440.00
M-58	PLAN PSU-04-0009444, QUEJANO ST., POBLACION	POLA	OR MINDORO	T-109178	119.25	100	250,255.00
R-19	LOT 19 BLK 11 VILLA ROSARIO SUBD, NAMUNGA,	ROSARIO	BATANGAS	T-123542		347	242,900.00
R-20	LOT 2 BLK 11 VILLA ROSARIO SUBD, NAMUNGA,	ROSARIO	BATANGAS	T-123451		522	365,400.00
N-9	LOT 16 BLK 3, VILLA MA. CONCEPCION SUBD., BO. NAMUCO	ROSARIO	BATANGAS	T-110032	42	189	256,032.00
M-28	LOT 4 BLK 3, MARKETVIEW SUBD., BRGY. NAMUCO	ROSARIO	BATANGAS	T-107924		160	112,000.00
O-72	LOT 1, SAN MARIANO,	ROXAS	OR MINDORO	T-114284		600	180,000.00
I-30	LOT 2 BLK 3 CASSANDRA VILLAGE	SAN ANTONIO	QUEZON	T-353498		132	79,200.00
RTO	LOT 2725-A BRGY. DAGATAN	SAN JOSE	BATANGAS	107764	46	198	182,840.00
R-22	LOT 24 BLK 2 THFAMILY HAVEN, MABALANOY,	SAN JUAN	BATANGAS	T-115755	32.4	80	234,936.89
P-13	LOT 6 BLK 3 THF HAVEN, MABALANOY,	SAN JUAN	BATANGAS	T-115754	32.4	80	267,576.00
Q-4	LOT 37 BLK 1 CRYSTAL PLAZA SUBD. POBLACION	SAN PASCUAL	BATANGAS	T-123799	44	60	285,381.81
J-27	LOT 3553-C-3-C-4-D-4 ILAG,	SAN TEODORO	OR MINDORO	T-103489		1024	184,320.00
21-B	LOT 21 BO SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-3233559		180	72,000.00
O-34	LOT 5612-I-2 BO SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-373155		180	72,000.00
O-38	LOT 5612-I-3 BO SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-373154		180	72,000.00
G-16	LOT 7 BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-343164		180	72,000.00
O-37	LOT 15 BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-384626		231	92,400.00
21-B1	LOT 20 SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-323577		180	72,000.00
19-B1	LOT 14 BO SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322802		165	66,000.00
6-B	L5612- H BO.SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322801		180	72,000.00
G-62	LOT 5612 - I - 7, BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-343163		410	164,000.00
9-B	LOT 22 BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322678		180	72,000.00
R-98	LOT 6-A-4-E-4, BRGY. SAMPALOC, SAN LORENZO RUIZ SUBD,	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-384266	43.04	263	229,533.33
19-B	LOT 13 , BO. SAMPALOC,	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322859		180	72,000.00
G-15	LOT 8 BO.. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-343180		180	72,000.00
26-B	L5612-I-4 BO SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322791		180	72,000.00
24-B	LOT 24 BO SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322795		337	337,800.00
P-80	5612-D SAMPALOC,	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-379713		180	72,000.00
23-B	LOT 3639-B, 47 GOMEZ ST	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322864	54.36	218	981,000.00
15-B	LOT 23 BO SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322799		220	88,000.00
O-35	LOT 11, BRGY. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-377136		180	72,000.00
R-96	LOT 5022-6-A BRGY. BALUBAL	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-384660		200	100,000.00
26-B1	LOT 5612 - I - 5 BO SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322792		180	72,000.00
O-36	L16, BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-375465		205	82,000.00
G-61	LOT 5612 - I - 6 BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-343162		180	63,000.00
M-112	L 19, BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-370678		180	72,000.00
M-111	LOT 18, BRGY. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-370679		180	72,000.00
G-17	LOT 9 BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-343181		180	72,000.00
R-97	LOT 5022-A-6 BRGY. BALUBAL	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-384661		200	100,000.00
6-B1	LOT 5612 - I BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322800		180	72,000.00
M-110	LOT 3-B, B01, GEN. LUNA ST., POBLACION	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-373337	114	117	1,945,000.00
8-B1	LOT 26 BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-329294		180	72,000.00
27-B	LOT 5, BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322798		180	72,000.00
18-B	LOT 27 SAMPALOC,	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322793		414	165,600.00
N-90	LOT 17 PSD-4A-010774, BRGY. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-375830		288	115,200.00
27-B1	LOT 4 BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322797		180	72,000.00
8-B	LOT 25 BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322794		180	72,000.00
R-99	LOT 11 BLK 11 HOLY FAMILY SUBD., BO. MAMALA 2	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-396149	42	125	436,700.00
K-12	LOT 12 BLK 3 OROVILLE, CATININGAN	SOCORRO	OR MINDORO	T-103234		300	90,000.00
K-11	LOT 13 BLK 3 ORO VILLE, CATININGAN	SOCORRO	OR MINDORO	T-103233		300	120,000.00
P-17	LOT 10 BLK 1 JULIEVILLVE SUBD., POBLACION	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	T-97331	20	88	284,800.00
CTS#2J	LOT4 BLK 14, TENNESSEE HOMES, BRGY. SAN PABLO	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	72256	24	40	246,176.00
CTS#28J	LOT 2 BLK. 18, TENNESSEE HOMES, BRGY. SAN PABLO	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	72266	24	40	246,176.00
CTS#21I	LOT 1 BLK 17 TENNESSEE HOMES, BRGY SAN PABLO	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	T-72259		60	286,176.00
CTS#33J	LOT 33 BLK. 9, IMPERIAL SOUTH MEADOWS SUBD., PH. II BRGY. SAN VICENTE	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	82121	18	35	175,208.00
Q-5	LOT 8 BLK 3 JULIEVILL SUBD., POBLACION	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	T-100565	72	93	286,500.00
R-23	LOT 25 BLK 28 IMPERIAL SOUTH MEADOWS, SAN VICENTE	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	T-99285	18	35	168,565.00
CTS#21J	LOT 4 BLK. 18, TENNESSEE HOMES, BRGY. SAN PABLO	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	72268	24	40	246,176.00
Q-6	LOT 35 BLK 32 IMPERIALSOUTHMEADOWS, SN VICENTE	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	T-100569	18	35	161,816.00
CTS#51J	LOT 19 BLK 10 IMPERIAL SOUTH MEADOWS, SAN VICENTE	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	T-82160	18	35	179,880.00
CTS#22J	LOT 3 BLK. 13, TENNESSEE HOMES, BRGY. SAN PABLO	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	71511	24	40	246,176.00
CTS#13J	LOT 2 BLK 17, TENNESSEE HOMES, BRGY. SAN PABLO	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	72260	24	40	246,176.00
CTS#30J	LOT 2 BLK. 13, TENNESSEE HOMES, BRGY. SAN PABLO	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	71510	24	40	246,176.00
CTS#27J	LOT 3 BLK. 18, TENNESSEE HOMES, BRGY. SAN PABLO	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	72267	24	40	246,176.00
O-33	LOT 23 BGY.STA CECILIA POBLACION	TAGKAWAYAN	QUEZON	T-394036		251	150,600.00
O-59	LOT 10 BLK 6 KAIMITO ST, 3KL FARM HOMES	TAGKAWAYAN	QUEZON	T-396377	33.50	104	354,200.00
I-36	LOT 2 BLK 18 GULF VIEW SUBD,	TAGKAWAYAN	QUEZON	T-353934		215	258,000.00
R-30	LOT 22 BLK 1 RAMONITA COUNTRY HOMES, DARASA	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	95045	24	40	180,080.00
21	LOT 11401 BALELE,	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	T-61158	84.60	645	385,701.60
R-26	LOT 14 BLK 4 VILLA CORAZON SUBD.,SANTOR	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	T-96283	20	100	254,800.00
R-27	LOT 10 BLK 7 RAMONITA COUNTY HOMES. BRGY DARASA	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	101088	24	40	186,320.00
P-20	LOT 40 BLK 7,RAMONITA COUNTY HOMES, DARASA	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	T-91971	24	40	176,652.80
16-D	LOT 20 BLK 10, BRGY. SAMBAT SAPPHIRE COR. AMETHYST. JOSEFA VILLAGE	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	T-67221	103.50	332	1,237,000.00
O-8	LOT 10372-C-2-A BO. JANOPOL (NOW JANOPOL OCC)	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	T-99396		366	82,350.00
R-24	LOT 12 BLK 7 RAMONITA COUNY HMS.DARASA	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	T-101091	24	40	186,320.00
R-29	LOT 23 BLK 12 RAMONITA COUNTY HOMES, BRGY DARASA	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	T-101004	24	40	180,080.00
R-28	LOT 24 BLK 02, VILLA CORAZON SUBD., BO SANTOR	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	T-95043	20	110	268,000.00
P-19	LOT 63 BLK 1 RAMONITA COUNTY HOMES, DARASA	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	T-91972	28	40	188,240.00
O-7	LOT 48 BLK 1,RAMONITA COUNTY HOMES, DARASA	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	T-91973	24	40	202,340.00
R-25	LOT 46 BLK 1 RAMONITA COUNTY HOMES, BRGY. DARASA,	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	101089	24	40	186,320.00
O-61	LOT 8 BLK 13,BO WAKAS, SN DIEGO VILLAGE,WAKAS	TAYABAS	QUEZON	T-411253		180	270,000.00
O-60	LOT 7 BLK 13 LITA SUBD. BRGY WAKAS	TAYABAS	QUEZON	T-396151		180	234,000.00
R-100	LOT 6 BLK 6, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BRGY. PLALIG	TIAONG	QUEZON	T-416072		193	164,050.00
N-112	LOT 29 BO. LALIG	TIAONG	QUEZON	T-384622	126.80	349	640,760.00
J-30	LOT 16 BLK 2 BGY SAN ISIDRO	VICTORIA	OR MINDORO	T-103236		250	100,000.00
R-64	LOT 4660-B-5-A, BO. BANCURO (MERIT)	VICTORIA	OR MINDORO	T-113750	94.88	358	226,192.54

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Interested buyers, brokers and developers may visit the Foreclosure and Acquired Assets Administration Division(FAAA), Pag-IBIG Fund Lucena Regional Office, 2nd Flr. Lucena Grand Central Terminal Bldg., Lucena City, or you may call at Tel. Nos. (042) 710-35-37/710-35-38.

(Sgd.) CESAR V. ALMENDRAS
Regional Manager/Co-Chairman
Committee on Disposition of Acquired Assets

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"I am the resurrection and the life, he who
believes in me will live, even though he dies,
and whoever believes in me will never die."
John 11:25-26

Former Governor Aniceto S. Solis, Sr.

of Davao Del Norte

Former Board Member of Davao Del Norte
Former Municipal Mayor of Sto. Tomas, Davao Del Norte

February 11, 1929 - December 08, 2005

Died in the Grace of our Lord at the age of 76.

His bereaved family

Wife	: **Teresita**
Children	: **Bing, Stella, Boyet, Theresa, Tina, Bunny** and **Mike**
Son & Daughter-in-law	: **Delia, Joel, Oca** and **Nancy**
Grandchildren	: **Paolo, JP, Niña, John-John, Jamie, Claudine, Noreen, Christine, Bingbong, Ynnah, Kiko, Aprille, Kian, Joseph, Nico** and **Angel**

Request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Cosmopolitan Memorial Chapels, J. Abad Santos St., Davao City.

Interment will be on Saturday, December 17, 2005, at the Davao Memorial Park, Matina Davao City, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

The Lord has called His faithful handmaid

OFELIA MONTAÑANO CARPIO

Vice-Governor Batangas 1982 - 1986
on December 13, 2005
to join her beloved husband Antonio G. Carpio, her brother Jose Jr.,
and her sisters Enya and Leda.

She will be sorely missed by her sisters **ANGELITA, EDEN** and **ROSEMARIE;**

Children **DIDAMER** and **ERMIE SEBASTIAN, MARIBETH SANDOVAL, VINIA** and **HERCULES CARIÑO, NINA** and **JOEJOY MACATANGAY** and **CARLO ANTONIO** and **TERESA CARPIO;**

Grandchildren **FAYE, TIMMY, CHESKA** and **JAYVEE,** and **KOOKAY; MICHAEL AXEL** and **EVA, NEIL GENE, KOLEEN CHERIE** and **ALLAN, DANIEL BRIAN, ANGELO, ARIANA ISABEL** and **ANDREA GABRIELLE;**

Great grandchildren **FRANKLIN JOSHUA, MICHELLE KYLE** and **SOPHIA NICOLE** and **JAMIE LIANE.**

Her body lies in state at the Mortuary of the Immaculate Concepcion Basilica, Batangas City and interment will be at the Roman Catholic Cemetery, Capitol Site, Batangas City after the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Thursday, December 15, 2005.

PLEASE OMIT FLOWERS.

Our Dearly Beloved

Obdulia "Mommy" Tugot

born September 5, 1915 has gone to the loving arms of our Lord on December 9, 2005 at the age 90.

Her loving husband, Celestino; children Visitacion(+), Wilfredo, Ligaya, Norman & Sonia; relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the church of Mother of Perpetual Help, Kawayanon, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon.

Interment will follow on Sunday, December 18, 2005 after the 9:00 a.m. mass.

> **"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."**
>
> — Psalm 21:15

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INVITATION TO BID

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), will conduct a public bidding for the per kilo/lot sale and disposal of the following surplus materials and various unserviceable equipment and furnitures, on an "as is-where is basis", located at the San Juan Stockyard, San Juan, Metro Manila and at the MWSS Property Management Storage, Balara, Quezon City. These materials are composed of the following:

Item No.	Materials Description	Location	Approximate Quantity	MWSS Base Price
1.	Surplust project materials composed of different kinds of pipes and fittings	San Juan Stockyard, San Juan, M.M.	2,000,000 kilos	P12.00/kilo
2.	Heavy/Solid Metal	MWSS Balara, Q.C.	15,000 kilos	P10.83/kilo
3.	Tin Sheet Scrap Metal (Yero)	MWW Balara, Q.C.	2,000 kilos	P7.16/kilo
4.	Scrap Kitchen Fixtures, Stainless	MWW Balara, Q.C.	500 kilos	P63.66/kilo
5.	Aluminum Metal	MWSS Balara, Q.C.	500 kilos	P61.66/kilo
6.	Scrap Brass (Tansong Dilaw)	MWSS Balara, Q.C.	7,500 kilos	P104.66/kilo
7.	Unserviceable Computers, Printers, Xerox Machines, Electronic Communication Equipment and Accessories	MWSS Balara, Q.C.	7,000 kilos	P8.00/kilo
8.	Unserviceable Different Types and Model Typewriter	MWSS Balara, Q.C.	3,000 kilos	P10.16/kilo
9.	Scrap/Waste Assorted Papers	MWSS Balara, Q.C.	5,000 kilos	P2.00/kilo
10.	White scrap Papers (obsolete continues form, 5 ply 14" x 9½")	MWSS Balara, Q.C.	1 lot (2,228 boxes)	P88,931.06 (1 lot)
11.	Office Desks, Tables, Cabinets, and other Wooden Furnitures	MWSS Balara, Q.C.	1 lot	P15,000.00 (1 lot)
12.	THW Electrical Cable & PVC Insullation	MWSS Balara, Q.C.	386 kilos	P176.30/kilo

Interested parties may secure the General Terms and Condition of this bidding, and the Bid Form, from the MWSS Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) located at the address below upon payment of non-refundable amount of Php 1,000.00, starting December 8 until December 15, 2005:

Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
Engineering & Project Management Department
Ground Floor, MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Telefax: 929-6988 / 922-2568

The bids must be submitted to the BAC in sealed envelope, one (1) original and two (2) duplicate copies, on or before **2:00 p.m. of December 19, 2005**. The bundy clock located at the above address shall serve as the basis for the official time for this bidding. Bids received after the above deadline shall no longer be accepted. The bids will be opened by the BAC at 2:15 p.m. on the same date in the presence of and the bidders, or their duly authorized representatives, and the general public.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted at the above address, at 10:00 a.m. on **December 16, 2005**, and thereafter a joint site inspection will follow.

ORIGINAL SIGNED
ORLANDO C. HONDRADE
Administrator

(PDI - Dec. 7 & 14, 2005)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-269	2 units Sorter Machine (Deskstop Machine) PLUS: Three (3) Years Maintenance Services	P 30,123,200.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding for the above requirements are scheduled on January 11, 2006 at 1:00 PM and pertinent Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P4,000.00.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **December 28, 2005** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations** (IRR).

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI–Dec. 14 & 21, 2005)

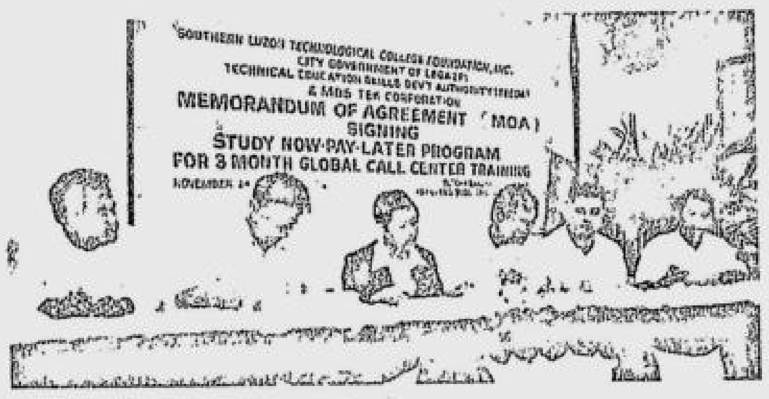
NFA Bulacan joins vegetable program launching

THE NATIONAL Food Authority in Malolos, Bulacan, joined the launching of the Off-Season Vegetable Production Program held recently to coincide with the province's celebration of Food Security Month. NFA Bulacan provincial manager Mar Alvarez said vegetables are not only good for the health but for the pocket as well. A study conducted by the East-West Seeds Co. in Baliuag town showed that planting vegetables in a 1,000-square meter lot would yield a net income of P20,000 while a one-hectare lot planted with vegetables will yield an income of at least P200,000. Desiree Duran, a banana cue and ice buko vendor from San Ildefonso was commended by Bulacan vice governor Aurelio Plamenco after making it big in the vegetable business. Meanwhile, the Department of Agriculture promised to help the vegetable farmers market their produce and asked them to organize themselves. For more information on NFA programs, the public may send their inquiries via the Text NFA Program through mobile number 0917-6210927.

WIN
TO THINK
PLACE OF

POWERSPEAK'S PERSONAL AWARENESS AND LEADERSHIP SEMINAR
Graduates and staff of Batch 7 of PowerSpeak's Personal Awareness and Leadership seminar (PALs) held last Dec. 2-4, 2005 attest that the three-day seminar was highly experiential and insightful, providing them with an enlightening fresh perspective towards life. PALs is based on the fundamental principle that each individual possesses unlimited, untapped potential and unlocking these allows a person to achieve greater results and abundance. Also in photo is Joey P. Reyes , back row, second from left (wearing a suit), facilitator and president of PowerSpeak, Inc. PALs Batch 8 is slated on January 20 to 22, 2005. Interested parties may inquire at 840-5958 and 840-5960, text 0917-5555639, or email powerspeak@gmall.com or log on to www.powerspeakph.com.

TUDY NOW-AY LATER ROGRAM FOR LOBAL CALL ENTER RAINING



SOUTHERN LUZON TECHNOLOGICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC.
CITY GOVERNMENT OF LEGAZPI
TECHNICAL EDUCATION SKILLS DEV'T AUTHORITY
& MBS TEK CORPORATION
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA)
SIGNING
STUDY NOW-PAY-LATER PROGRAM
FOR 3 MONTH GLOBAL CALL CENTER TRAINING
NOVEMBER 24

outhern Luzon echnological College oundation, Inc. SLTCFI), MBS Tek orporation and the echnical Education nd Skills Development Authority (TESDA) together with the City Government of Legazpi signed Memorandum of Agreement last Nov. 24 on the Study Now-Pay Later Program that SLTCFI ffers in its three-month Global Call Center Training Program. The MOA signing was held at the ew SLTCFI Business Center, which was concurrently inaugurated together with the new offices f MBS Tek Corporation, this city. The signatories included Hon. Noel E. Rosal, City Mayor of egazpi, Rosemarie Q. Rey, president/CEO of SLTCFI and country manager of MBS Tek orporation; Dir. Fortunato Bosangit of TESDA ROV; Joel Balingbing, operations manager of MBS ek Corporation among others.

Hindi ka namin malilimutan

Fernando Poe Jr.

August 20, 1939 - December 14, 2004

Schedule of Masses in the Philippines and other countries

Parish of the Holy Cross
Valenzuela City, Bulacan
6 PM

Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of the Abandoned Parish
Poblacion, Muntinlupa
6 PM

St. Anne Parish
Sta. Ana, Taguig
6 PM

Dominican Fathers
San Lorenzo Ruiz
Kaularan Village, Navotas
6 PM

St. Paul Metropolitan Parish
Vigan City, Ilocos Sur
6 PM

Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia
Vigan City, Ilocos Sur
6 PM

St. James the Elder
Cathedral Parish
Bangued, Abra
6 PM

Our Lady of Grace Parish
Grace Park, Caloocan City
6 PM

Cathedral Shrine of
Good Shepherd
Regalado Ave., Fairview, Q.C.
6 PM

Sto. Rosario Parish
Pacita Complex, San Pedro, Laguna
6 PM

Parish of St. Sebastian
Lipa City, Batangas
6 PM

Immaculate Concepcion Parish
Antipolo Cathedral, Antipolo City
6 PM

Three Kings Parish
Gapan, Nueva Ecija
6 PM

Sto. Niño De Tondo Parish
Chacon St., Tondo, Manila
6 PM

St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish
Ususan, Taguig
6 PM

Our Lady of the Pillar Parish
Imus, Cavite
6 PM

Carmel of Our Lady, Mary Mediatrix of All Grace
Lipa City, Batangas
6 PM

Redemptorists
Lipa City, Batangas
6 PM

Immaculate
Conception Cathedral
Cotabato City, Cotabato
6 PM

San Luis Obispo Parish Church
Aurora, Quezon
6 PM

National Shrine of the
Divine Mercy
Sta. Rosa, Marilao, Bulacan
6 PM

Mary Immaculate
Parish Church
Parañaque City
6 PM

San Jose de Navotas
Parish Church
M. Naval St. Navotas
6 PM

Sacred Heart Jesus
Parish Church
Mandaluyong City
6 PM

Sacred Heart Parish
Kamuning, Q. C.
6 PM

Metropolitan Cathedral
of Zamboanga
Zamboanga City
By: Mr. Luis Lacson
6 PM

St. Nicholas Parish Church
Cabanatuan City
6 PM

National Shrine of the
Sacred Heart
San Antonio Village, Makati City
6 PM

St. Augustine Parish
Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro
6 PM

Our Lady of La Paz Parish
Archimedes St., Makati City
6 PM

Sacred Heart Parish
Kamuning St., Q.C
6 PM

Our Lady of Loreto Parish
J. Figueras St., Sampaloc, Manila
6 PM

St. Augustine Parish
Coron, Palawan
6 PM

Cathedral of St. John
The Baptist
Kalibo, Aklan
6 PM

St. John The Baptish Parish
Diocese of Daet, Camarines Norte
6 PM

Saint Joseph Parish
Butuan City, CARAGA
6 PM

St. Anthony Cathedral
Masbate City, Masbate
6 PM

Sacred Heart Parish
Binangonan, Rizal
6 PM

St. Clement Parish
Angono, Rizal.
6 PM

Parish of
Immaculate Concepcion
Roxas City, Capiz
6 PM

Saint James The Great Parish
Buenavista, Agusan del Norte
6 PM

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
Bayugan, Agusan del Sur
6 PM

Saint Anthony of Padua Parish
Sibagat, Agusan del Sur
6 PM

Minor Basilica of the
Black Nazarene
Parish of St. John de Baptist,
Plaza Miranda, Quiapo
6 PM

St. Bartholomew Parish
Catbalogan, Samar
6 PM

Our Lady of the
Most Holy Rosary Parish
Montalban, Rizal
6 PM

Sta. Cecilia Parish
San Mateo, Rizal
6 PM

Sto. Tomas De Villanueva
Parish Church
Pardo, Cebu City
6 PM

Immaculate
Conception Cathedral
Cotabato City
6 PM

Parish of Our Lady of Peace
& Good Voyage
La Paz, Iloilo City
6 PM

St. Mary Magdalene Parish
Don Bosco St. Lagawe, Ifugao
6 PM

St. Joseph Parish Church Diocese of Ilagan
Ilagan, Isabela
6 PM

Parish of St. Sebastian
Lipa City, Batangas
6 PM

San Miguel Parish
Tayabas, Quezon
6 PM

Our Lady of Atonement-
Baguio Cathedral
Baguio City
6 PM

St. Jude Thaddeus Parish
Diocese of San Fernando La Union
San Fernando City
6 PM

Parish of St. Gregory the Great
Albay, Legaspi City
6 PM

St. Raymund Nomatus Parish
Moncada, Tarlac
6 PM

Cathedral Parish of St. Joseph
Balanga, Bataan
6 PM

St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish
Mariveles, Bataaan
6 PM

Cebu Metropolitan
Cathedral Parish
P. Burgos Street, Cebu
6 PM

San Agustin
Metropolitan Cathedral
Cagayan de Oro City
6 PM

San Isidro Labrador Church
Cagayan De Oro City
6 PM

San Antonio De Padua Parish
Cagayan De Oro City
6 PM

Nazareno Parish
Cagayan De Oro City
6 PM

St. Sebastian Cathedral
Bacolod City
6 PM

Sacred Heart Shrine
Lizares Ave., Bacolod City
6 PM

St. Columban Church
Olongapo City
6 PM

St. Polycarp Parish
Cabuyao, Laguna
6 PM

Immaculate
Conception Cathedral
Cotabato City
6 PM

St. Michael Parish Church
Marilao, Bulacan
6 PM

San Roque Parish Church
Tambubong Bocaue, Bulacan
6 PM

St. Peter Parish Church
San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan
6 PM

St. Martin Of Tours Parish
Poblacion, Bocaue, Bulacan
6 PM

St. Andrew Kim Parish Church
Lolomboy, Bocaue, Bulacan
6 PM

San Pascual Baylon
Parish Church
Obando, Bulacan
6 PM

Immaculada Concepcion
Parish Church
Sta. Maria, Bulacan
6 PM

St. John Cathedral
Dagupan City, Pangasinan
By: Mr. Daniel Sison
6 PM

St. Vincent Parish Church
Bayambang, Pangasinan
6 PM

St. Charles Parish Church
San Carlos City, Pangasinan
6 PM

San Isidro Labrador Parish
Biñan, Laguna
6 PM

Holy Infant Parish
San Antonio, Zambales
6 PM

Parish of St. Therese
Dagupan City, Pangasinan
6 PM

Immaculate Concepcion Parish
Balibago, Angeles City, Pampanga
6 PM

Immaculate Concepcion Parish Church
Batac, Ilocos Norte
6 PM

St. William Cathedral
Laoag City, Ilocos Norte
6 PM

Sta. Monica Parish
Puerto Princesa, Palawan
7 PM

Metropolitan Cathedral of Immaculate Concepcion
La Purisima St., Zamboanga
6 PM

Capilla Chapel
Campo Uno, Lamitan Basilan
8:30 AM

Parang Maguindanao
7 AM
(A Christian Dominant Barangay)

Good Shepherd Church
3600 Harbor Blvd.
Pittsburg; CA 94565 USA
8 AM

St. John Vianney
Walnut Creek, CA 94593
8 AM

Our Lady of Mt. Lebanon
Beverly Hills, CA
8 AM

St. Thomas
Balboa, San Francisco, CA USA
8 AM

Our Lady of
Mt. Carmel Church
New Manila, Q.C.
7 AM and 7 PM

Christ The King
Green Meadows
6 PM

Chapel
Salcedo Village, Makati
5:30 AM and 6:15 AM

Our Lady of Light Parish
Cainta Rizal
6 PM

Loyola House of Prayer
6 AM

Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral
Cubao, Quezon City
7 AM

St. Therese of the
Little Flower Church
Carmelite Scoters, Gilmore, Q.C.
6:30 AM

Eucharistic Lord Chapel
5/F, SM Megamall
6 PM

Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine
Makati
12 Noon

Society of St. Paul Chapel
Salcedo Village, Makati
5:30 AM and 6:15 AM

Our Lady of Manaoag Shrine
Manaoag, Pangasinan
6 AM

St. John The Baptist Parish
Calamba City, Laguna
5:15 AM & 5:15 PM

St. Catherine
Alexandria Church
Dumaguete City,
Negros Oriental
5 PM

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church
Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
6 AM

Sacred Heart Church
Lahug, Cebu City
6 AM

San Isidro Labrador
Biñan, Laguna
6 AM

St. James the Great
Ayala, Alabang
6:20 AM

St. Elizabeth
Van Nuys CA
6 PM

Cyril of Jerusalem
Sherman Oaks, CA
8 AM

St. Nicholas
Sta. Rita, Macabebe, Pampanga
7 AM

San Roque Parish
Mabini St., Caloocan City
6 PM

Our Lady of Grace Parish
11th Ave., Avenida, Caloocan City
6 PM

San Bartolome Parish
Brgy. San Agustin, Malabon
6 PM

St. Peter and St. John Parish
Brgy. Potrero, Malabon
6 PM

Sacred Heart Parish
Brgy. Tugatog, Malabon
6 PM

Immaculate Conception Parish
Brgy. Concepcion, Malabon
6 PM

Holy Cross Parish
E. Rodriguez St. Tanza, Navotas
6 PM

San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish
Kaunlaran Village, Navotas
6 PM

San Ildefonso Parish
Navotas
6 PM

San Roque Parish
Navotas
6 PM

Sacred Heart Parish
Dao St. San Antonio Village,
Makati City
6 PM

Sts. Peter and Paul Parish
Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City
6:30 PM

San Ildefonso Parish
Pasay Road, Pio Del Pilar
Makati City
6 AM and 6:30 PM

Sto. Niño de Paz Parish
Greenbelt, Makati City
7 PM

Mater Dolorosa Parish
East Rembo, Makati City
6:30 PM

Nuestra Señora
de Guadalupe Parish
Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City
6:30 PM

Sto. Domingo Church
Quezon City
7 AM

St. John the Baptist
Parish Church
Pinaglabanan, San Juan
6 PM

Mowelfund Plaza
66 Rosario Drive, Cubao, Q.C.
4 PM

Basista, Pangasinan
4:30 PM

Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan
6:15 PM

Alcala, Pangasinan
5 PM

Bautista, Pangasinan
6 AM

Asingan, Pangasinan
4:30 PM

Villasis, Pangasinan
6 AM

Rosales, Pangasinan
5 AM

San Jacinto, Pangasinan
4:30 PM

Binalonan, Pangasinan
6 AM

Binmaley, Pangasinan
6 AM

Redemptorist Church
Bajada, Davao
6 PM

Holy Catholic Spiritual Church Phils.
Isabela
6 AM

San Pablo City Diocese
San Pablo City, Laguna
6 AM

St. Magdalene Church
Magdalena, Laguna
6 AM

St. Anthony Church
Pila, Laguna
6 AM

St. Anthony Church
Los Baños, Laguna
6 PM

Our Lady of Nativity
Dulag, Leyte
7 AM

San Nicolas Tolentino Cathedral
Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija
6 PM

Parish Church of Bayambang
Pangasinan
6 AM

Parish Church of Calasiao
Pangasinan
6 AM

Parish Church of Lingayen
Pangasinan
6 AM

Parish Church of Urdaneta
Pangasinan
6 AM

Parish Church of Mangaldan
Pangasinan
6 AM & 4 PM

Parish Church of Malasique
Pangasinan
6 AM

Our Lady of Manaoag
Pangasinan
7 AM

Parish Church of Dagupan
Pangasinan
7:30 AM

Parish Church of San Carlos City
Pangasinan
5 PM

San Bartolome Church
Catbalogan, Samar
5 AM

San Roque Church
Gandara, Samar
5 AM

San Antonio de Padua
Tacloban City
6 AM

Sto. Niño Church
Tacloban City
6 AM

Redemptorist Church
Tacloban City
6 AM

Sacred Heart Church
Tacloban City
6 AM

San Isidro Labrador
Zamboanga City
6 PM

Metropolitan Cathedral
Zamboanga City
6 PM

Muslim Village Mosque
Dasmariñas, Cavite
6 PM

Pikarabawan Mosque
Tamparan, Lanao del Sur
6 PM

Immaculate Concepcion Church
Harrison, Manila
6 AM

Immaculate Concepcion Church
Pasig City
6 AM

Our Lady of Abandoned
Marikina
6 AM

Santuario De San Jose
Greenhills, San Juan
6 PM

Rosario Church
Rosario, Pasig City
6 PM

Sto. Niño de Tondo
Tondo, Manila
6 PM

St. Gabriel Church
Caloocan City
6 PM

Holy Family Church
Kamias, Quezon City
6 PM

Holy Family Parish Church
Kapitolyo, Pasig City
6 PM

St. Joseph Church
Aurora, Quezon City
6 PM

Miraculous Medal Church
Mandaluyong City
6 PM

Holy Eucharist Church
Moonwalk, Parañaque City
6 PM

Don Bosco Church
Makati City
6 PM

San Roque Church
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
6 PM

St. Francis de Assisi
Mandaluyong City
6 PM

Our Lady of the Pillar
Pilar Village, Las Piñas City
6 PM

Sta. Rosa de Lima
Ugong, Pasig City
6 PM

Sta. Clara Church
Pasig City
6 PM

Our Lady of Loreto Church
Sampaloc, Manila
6:30 PM

St. Joseph Church
Baras, Rizal
6 AM

St. John the Baptist Church
Poblacion, Calumpit, Bulacan
6 PM

San Marcos Church
San Jose, Calumpit, Bulacan
6 PM

San Pascual Baylon
Obando, Bulacan
6 PM

Sto. Niño Church
Meycauayan, Bulacan
6 PM

Sta. Monica Church
Angat, Bulacan
6 PM

Sta. Cruz Church
Obando, Bulacan
6 PM

Sta. Elena Church
Hagonoy, Bulacan
6 PM

San Roque Church
Meycauayan, Bulacan
6 PM

Sta. Rita de Casid
Guiguinto, Bulacan
6 PM

San Ildefonso Church
Guiguinto, Bulacan
6 PM

Nuestra del Rosario
Guiguinto, Bulacan
6 PM

San Sebastian Cathedral
Bacolod City
6 PM

St. Joseph Cathedral
Tagbilaran City, Bohol
6 PM

St. James the Apostle Church
Biliran Province
6 AM

Sto. Rosario Church
Tanza, Cavite
6 AM

Nuestra Señora del Pilar
MBO, Occidental Mindoro
5 PM

San Rafael
Abra, Occidental Mindoro
6:30 AM

San Jose
Palauan, Occidental Mindoro
7:30 AM

Holy Cross
Sta. Cruz, Occidental Mindoro
7:30 AM

Sablayan Church
Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro
6 AM

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BUSINESS

Customs exceeds Nov. target

BOC confident of meeting full-year target of ₱151.2B

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS YESTERDAY said it has surpassed its November collection target of P13.029 billion.

BOC Officer-in-Charge Alexander Arevalo was thus optimistic that the revenue collection agency would meet its target for the year of P151.2 billion.

He based his assessment on preliminary figures, with the official figure scheduled to be announced shortly.

"We are confident that we will meet our target for this year (because) we have collectibles from GOCCs (government-owned and controlled corporations) representing unpaid import duties of between P16 billion and P17 billion," Arevalo told reporters on the sidelines of the assembly of the Rotary Club of Makati held yesterday.

In the first 10 months, BOC collection stood at only P116.7 billion, P8.9 billion short of its P125.6 billion target for the period.

Should the BOC collect as much as P17 billion worth of unpaid duties by GOCCs, such as the National Food Authority that imports rice, then the agency could easily cover the P8.9-billion shortfall in the first 10 months of the year, Arevalo said.

The BOC is tasked to collect P151.2 billion for 2005, 26 percent more than last year's target of P120 billion.

The BOC's difficulty in meeting its monthly collection targets was blamed on the perennial problems of smuggling and corruption within the agency.

To help address the shortfall, Finance Secretary Margarito "Gary" Teves said the DOF has sought help from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He said the two foreign funding agency would provide official development assistance (ODA) for the planned improvement of the tax and duty administration of the BIR and the BOC.

The IMF will fund studies on how to improve revenue collection, while the World Bank will fund the purchase of hardware, such as computers.

"We would like to focus on the improvement of tax collection efficiency next year," Teves said during the same meeting yesterday.

The BIR and the BOC, the top revenue contributors among government agencies, have been struggling to meet their monthly revenue collection targets.

The BIR, which accounts for about 60 percent of total revenues of the national government, collected only P440 billion in the first 10 months of the year, or P8.8 billion short of its P449.2-billion target for the period.

The BIR is tasked to collect P546.9 billion this year.

Teves noted that the country's tax effort, the amount of tax collection as a percentage of gross domestic product, stood at only 12.6 percent in 2004 from a high of 17 percent in 1997.

DA, industry to revive cocoa production

By Christine A. Gaylican

INCREASING DEMAND HERE AND ABROAD for cocoa beans has prompted the Department of Agriculture to revive local production.

In close coordination with the Cocoa Foundation of the Philippines, Agriculture authorities have encouraged farmers in the agrarian reform communities to switch to planting the high value crop that now averages $1,300 a metric ton in the international market.

Cocoa Foundation president Patricia Limpe said in an interview on the sidelines of a forum yesterday that the $20-billion global confectionery industry prefers Philippine cacao beans.

"There is so much money in the production of cacao and what we need now are the quality beans," Limpe said, who is also president of Antonio Pueo Corp.

Limpe said that international confectionery companies, including Nestlé, Mars, Hersheys and Cadbury, have been consistent buyers of Philippine cocoa.

This is on top of the local demand estimated at 35,000 metric tons a year.

The country exported some 9,292 metric tons of cocoa last year amounting to $11.345 million.

"We could again be a net exporter (of cocoa) like we were in the 1960s given the chance to plant at least 500 to 1,000 cacao trees," she added.

The Philippines was the first in Asia to plant cacao and prepare chocolate drinks from cocoa beans.

Commercial cacao farms in the Philippines was put up in the mid 1950s and cocoa beans production expanded into an industry in 1960s with the setting up of processing facilities.

Many of the cacao farms were set up in Mindanao.

In mid 1980s, the industry started to take-off as more investments were poured into commercial farms and on grinding facilities.

The implementation of the comprehensive agrarian reform program beginning 1992, however, had resulted in the breaking up of the commercial farms in Mindanao into small farm units.

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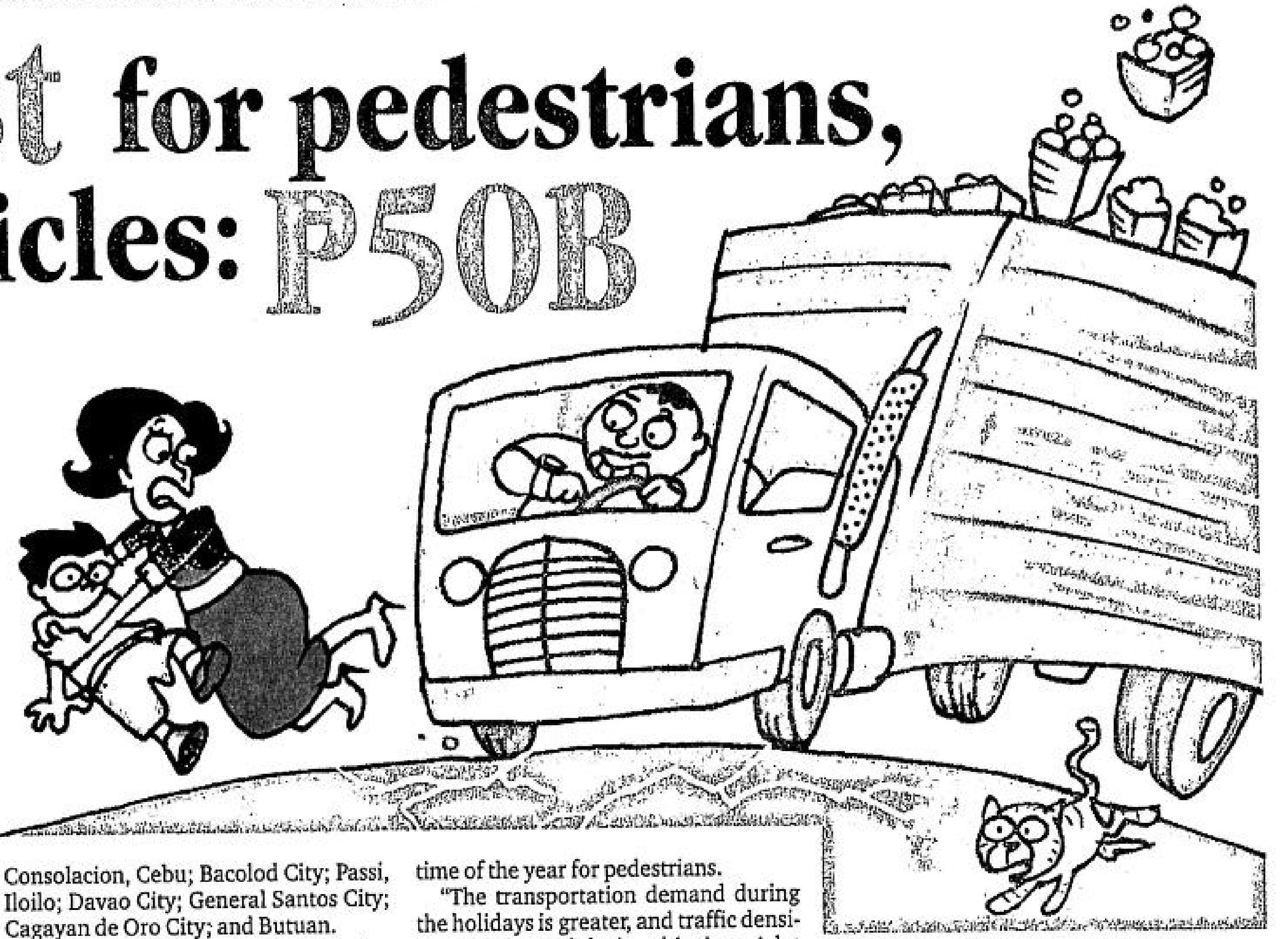
Holiday cost for pedestrians, overloaded vehicles: P50B



By Tessa R. Salazar

EVERYBODY'S CASHING in on the holidays. The demand for goods and services is at its highest for the year.

Everyone's beating deadlines to cope with quotas. The peak demand for goods and services is causing the overloading of all types of vehicles. Though overloading seems to work, in the long run, it entails huge costs.

According to a Department of Public Works and Highways data, overloading costs an additional P1.5 million per kilometer of national road for the induced change in pavement thickness, or roughly P20 billion to P50 billion a year for the strategic road network of around 10,000 km.

Daisy Jacobo, member of the technical working group of the national road safety committee chaired by the Department of Transportation and Communication, quoted the data stating one of the recommendations would be to identify strategic routes for heavy goods trucks for effective monitoring and that load limits could be efficiently enforced.

Overloading

Jacobo stressed overloading could most likely increase the probability of mechanical breakdown and premature deterioration of tires. It also imposes upon the driver the need for longer safe-braking distances.

Overloaded vehicles also slow down traffic because they tend to travel below the minimum speed limit. This, in turn, induces impatient drivers following the vehicle to engage in unsafe passing maneuvers.

Overloading also increases the probability of cargo spillage and vehicle overturning. In the long run, Jacobo assessed, overloading would not be cost-effective.

2.2-M trips, 1.6-M trucks

The DPWH axle load surveys on 10 sites along vital truck routes in the Philippines showed 23.4 percent of loaded trucks exceeded the gross vehicle weight limit. Fifteen percent of loaded trucks exceeded the permissible axle load of 13.5 tons, violating Republic Act 8794, or the Road Users Charge law.

Out of the estimated annual truck trips of 22.7 million in 2004, 2.2 million of these were made carrying loads far greater than the allowable gross vehicle weight, while 1.6-million trucks were exceeding the legal axle load value.

The most in terms of geographical location of overloaded trucks, or the most severe incidence of overloading, occurred in Mindanao, particularly at the Cagayan de Oro and Butuan (Northern Mindanao) routes.

Trucks plying the Mindanao road corridors were found to be carrying capacity factors exceeding the national averages.

In Luzon, trucks passing through Urdaneta, Pangasinan, were found to have the highest incidence of exceeding the maximum gross vehicle weight at 18.5 percent.

Survey sites

The 10 survey sites covered the major corridors of Pulilan, Bulacan; Urdaneta, Pangasinan; Daraga, Albay; Consolacion, Cebu; Bacolod City; Passi, Iloilo; Davao City; General Santos City; Cagayan de Oro City; and Butuan.

Jacobo said that apart from being major corridors, these sites already have portable weighing equipment or weighbridges. Facilities are already in these areas.

Accidents

The Philippine National Police-Traffic Management Group data disclosed that from January to December 2002, there were 89 reported accidents due to overloading; from January to December 2003 reported accidents were 1173; and from January to August 2004, accidents totaled 376 accidents.

Though there has been no separate data indicating increased accidents during the holidays, the Christmas season has been identified by government and non-government organizations (NGOs) as traditionally the most unsafe time of the year for pedestrians.

"The transportation demand during the holidays is greater, and traffic density has increased during this time. A lot of people are on the road," analyzed Jacobo. "A lot of deliveries (are being made) because the year is about to end," said Jacobo.

When traveling with kids

Dr. Raffy Consunji, Safe Kids Philippines president, warned parents who travel with their children to be more mindful of the risks involved in traveling or in walking and crossing streets.

"As much as possible, overly crowded areas or streets with no sidewalks should be avoided when traveling with children. Mall parking lots and loading/unloading zones can also be potentially dangerous for children," Consunji said.

HOLIDAY/ B2-3

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Norkis beefs up its small-engined cars with 2 new models

THE FIVE-DOOR Privacy Commuter is one of the smallest cars in the market today.

By Charles E. Buban

AS THE COUNTRY BRACES for another round of gasoline price increase in the coming months (notwithstanding the recent price rollbacks), one carmaker is doing its part in providing more options to consumers wanting to reduce their gasoline use and expenses.

Last week, the Norkis Group of Companies previewed two new models to beef up its small-displacement vehicle lineup.

"Rising gasoline prices are prompting more and more Filipinos to consider buying fuel-efficient vehicles so the Norkis Group came up with two more models, the Privacy Commuter and Privacy Roadster," announced Buen Jose Delfin, group managing head of Porta Coeli Industrial Co. Inc. (PCICI).

The PCICI is a Norkis Group subsidiary in charge of manufacturing and marketing four-wheeled vehicles (since the Norkis Group is also into selling Yamaha brand of motorcycles).

5- and 3-door hatchback

The Privacy Commuter is a five-door hatchback while the Privacy is a three-door hatchback. Both models will be available initially in Cebu and will be priced P185,000 and P175,000, respectively.

With the two models, PCICI beefs up its current lineup that now include the Legacy Single Cab, Legacy Double Cab and Legacy Van.

While the Legacy Single Cab and Double Cab as well as the Van are great for utility purposes (with the presence of a truck bed), Delfin explained both Privacy Commuter and Privacy Roadster are more suited for personal commute.

Same chassis, engine

"Actually, all these five models share the same chassis and engine displacement as they are all powered by a 660cc, 3-cylinder Suzuki or Daihatsu engines imported from Japan," revealed Delfin who added all five models are rated with a fuel efficiency of 13 km to 14 km per liter (highway driving) or 10 km to 12 km per liter (city driving).

PRIVACY Roadster is an affordable personal commuter.

He said small cars are usually more economical as they consume less oil, emit less hazardous exhaust gases and take up a smaller amount of parking space.

"As one may notice, our price range will appeal to middle-income earners who may want something more substantial than a motorcycle but still find the price of secondhand or even brand-new cars too expensive," said Delfin.

Imports

He explained that PCICI imports used Suzuki or Daihatsu vehicles from Japan as completely knocked down (CKD) components.

"Only those vehicles with mileage ranging from 30,000 to 50,000 km are selected for importation," he added.

Once these vehicles reach Cebu—where the Norkis manufacturing plant is located—the company's mechanics and technicians apply Norkis' 5R manufacturing process, which simply means the vehicles and its components are reconditioned, rebuilt, remanufactured, reengineered and reinvented.

Says Delfin: "As a result, our vehicles including the latest Privacy Commuter and Privacy Roadster should be regarded as almost brand-new. Besides, with the after-sales support (spare parts and repair), which we are providing, plus the fact that we are registered with the Board of Investments, our buyers are assured of the quality of our vehicles."

A Christmas list

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

DO YOU BELIEVE IN SANTA Claus? I will admit that up to the very late age of 11, this writer was a wide-eyed believer in the "omnipresent, Yuletide gift-giving entity" story. Even after having practically put together all the clues about the ultimate source of all Christmas Day loot, it was very difficult to face the reality of what the situation purported itself to be.

Concocted explanations about subcontracted North Pole production were a little way over my head. When did Santa open toy factories in Taiwan and Hong Kong? Did it even snow in these countries? The resigned acknowledgement of Christmas actually being more "spirit of giving" rather than "gift-receiving extravaganza" then took over as expected.

Twenty years later, I fear my reaction has been too cynical about the entire situation. Coming face to face with the warmth of a Filipino Christmas never ceases to amaze, with such encounters made more touching in times of crisis and privation. The smallest acts of kindness and consideration shine with relative brightness in these times of need.

Appeal

It is a little funny that I find myself appealing, once again, to what may as well be a portly man, with flying reindeer, able to seed the world with gifts in a single night. During times like these, wouldn't it be better if there was a little of the Santa Claus spirit in all of us. So here goes the litany.

Let's begin with the oil companies. We, the Filipino motorists, appreciate the slight reversal in the price of petroleum. As expected, we'd like more, but can you really blame us for acting that way? Pump prices continue to fall across the industrialized globe, despite the fact that the full brunt of winter is just a few new calendar pages away. Have we been very naughty customers? Is this the reason we aren't getting the price drops we want?

'Simple' alternative

OK then, what about a "simple" alternative instead to usual gasoline and diesel, like LPG or CNG? Show us what is needed to convert our "guzzlers" to these fuel formats, give us time to assess the technology and if it is truly more economical than pump fuel—many will surely go down that road.

Barring the immediate launch of this LPG light at the end of the woeful petroleum tunnel, maybe it is the from the manufacturers that we should ask for a Christmas gift of sorts. You've teased us to no end with the news that hybrid technology is available in the here and now. So why aren't these fuel marvels in our showrooms right at this very moment? An entire generation of gasoline electric hybrids have come and gone in other markets, with no tangible sign of local arrival.

Transparency, though doubtful, will very much be appreciated. Tell us if there is a problem with the introduction of such technology. Engineering issues must already be something of the past for many hybrid manufacturers since acceptance of these products in the major automotive markets is already quite positive.

It must be a money issue then. Realistically, the production cost (and therefore the retail price) of such units is higher, much of which is due to the use of a complicated, symbiotic gasoline and electric system. Again, if the fuel savings versus the costs of owning hybrids makes sense, then many will surely line up for these cars. Just tell us where and when.

Final plea

The final plea goes to our government. Why not give such alternative fuel systems an incentive or a reprieve from excise? We all know that this is an administration allergic to giving the common citizen tax relief; the notion of lost revenue alone might already have our national leadership breaking out in hives. The ultimate impact of having less gasoline-dependent vehicles on our streets could possibly have fiscal significance on a national level.

The less fuel we import, the less essential foreign exchange needs to leave our public coffers. How much clearer should the impact on our trade deficit be before someone in office—anyone in office—acts on the situation. Once the use of alternative fuel reaches a critical mass, the results should be tangible, even in our daily lives. All of this is of course dependent on at least some critical thinking in the halls of national governance.

So there it is, a rather short but complicated list for Christmas. Just as a precaution, I've copy furnished Mr. Claus in the hope that something will come out of this plea. Why do I trust in Santa again, you may ask? Sometimes, we need to hope especially when the odds of something happening are at its slimmest. Serious tone aside, I've been a very good boy this year and gone on to ask for a 2006 Honda Civic hybrid. This is a season of miracles, after all.

Merry season is on

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

IT IS GOING TO BE THE BUSIEST two weeks of the year starting this week. No, next three weeks, considering that the New Year bash is on a Saturday, Dec. 31.

That holds true to most of the 12-million strong, holiday-prone Manilans.

Gift-wrapping here, partying there, handing out gifts to one and all, relative or not, friend or not, total stranger or not.

We are not only a fun-loving, laughing-all-the-time race. We are also a caring race, a sentimental and family-comes-first tribe.

In this season when we are celebrating the birth of our Dear Lord Jesus Christ, we put aside everything if only to prove that we are capable of loving, forgiving, this time of year.

* * *

A lover's spat, a verbal tussle between friends, a heated exchange of words between or among family members.

They all ought to be dumped into the thrash can. Or we have no right of calling ourselves practising Christians.

The difference between us and animals like dogs and cats is that God has given us the gift to talk. We can communicate. A minor rift, a small fight, should never destroy a friendship, a relationship, a family.

There is no better time than this season to mend fences with anyone, particularly our loved ones. If we can't love our brother or sister, our mother or father, our neighbor or a complete stranger at that, how can we say we love Jesus Christ?

As the Good Book says, "You visit a sick person or one in prison, you are visiting Jesus Christ."

This is the time of forgiving—for forgiving is the essence of not only the celebration of Jesus Christ's birth but also our borrowed existence on Earth.

* * *

They say we are also a forgetful race. But I say it's better to forget than dwell on the past.

To dwell is not to forget; that is clinging on to a past that will haunt you all your life.

It is in forgetting that we can love more. It is in forgetting that we can add life to our years.

Next to forgetting, of course, is forgiving.

If we forgive, everything is healed: Our conscience is unburdened of excess luggage, our shoulders freed from an unwanted, oftentimes, evil baggage.

* * *

This early, I must say a lot of the nicest people I've come to know, to have brushed elbows with, to have shared bottles with both of the expensive variety and not, come from the motoring industry. Not to flatter you, guys and dolls, but to me, you again made a lot of difference in my life the past 11 months or so.

That's why I feel so guilty not being able to attend to your parties and other special occasions last week.

I was stuck in Baguio the whole week last week doing a rules officiating job in the 56th Fil-Am Golf Invitational Championship at both the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay.

Thus, again to Honda, Ford, Volvo and Isuzu, my apologies.

Oh, yes, I will also miss the Petron Autogasul Media Test Drive to Subic from Manila on Dec. 13-14, but I'm sure Charmaine V. Canillas, Petron's advertising and promotions manager, will understand as usual. A previous commitment was the culprit.

But the Honda party on Dec. 8, well, I had sorely missed that one as I promised Arnel Doria and Tin Tin Reyes that I'd come—come hell or high water. I knew they picked Merk's Place at Greenbelt for the occasion, hiring a Sixties band if only to please me (everybody knows I've always been partial to the Sixties music, particularly The Beatles).

***Patawad po*, Arnel and Tin Tin?**

Anyway, to Arlan Reyes, Mel Dizon and Froi Dytiangquin of Mitsubishi, I'm coming on Dec. 19 (there you go again, making a promise).

As to Toyota's Danny "Sir John" Isla, Ariel de Jesus and Elijah Sue Marcial, well, I'm safe. They hold their party usually in a January, the month when everything has seemed to have tapered off.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Still the benchmark for me in terms of clockwork precision in any highway hereabouts is the South Luzon Expressway's Skyway. Over there, it's almost a hassle-free trip.

Bosch produces 100-M common-rail injectors for cars

THE 100 MILLIONTH COMMON-RAIL INjector for passenger car diesel engines has recently come off the Bosch assembly lines. This production output documents the outstanding success of the Common-Rail system which was launched by Bosch in 1997. Some 23 million passenger cars have been fitted with it until this day.

In 2005, Bosch has produced some 26 million Common-Rail injectors for passenger car engines in seven locations on three continents. The third generation of the Common-Rail system with innovative piezo-inline injectors is currently manufactured at the Bosch plant in Bamberg, Germany as well as in two other European locations.

This year's Deutsche Zukunftspreis, the German Future Award of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, was recently presented to the researchers and developers of Bosch and Siemens VDO for the utilization of piezo technology.

Steadily increasing market

Diesel engines are enjoying a steadily increasing market share due to their great fuel economy and low pollution. And for good reasons, since vehicles with diesel engines consume about 30 percent less fuel than comparable vehicles with a gasoline engine, as has been confirmed by the German Federal agency for vehicles in 2004, the Kraftfahrt-Bundesamt.

In other words, if drivers of diesel-powered vehicles converted to gasoline-powered vehicles with the same performance, they would have to live with a 50 percent higher fuel consumption—suffering not only the additional expense but also a shorter mileage with every tank full of fuel.

Diesel engines offer great economy potential in various ways: not only is the fuel economy greater, prices for fuel are generally under those for gasoline. And with increasing fuel prices, the diesel's economy will become even more important in the future.

Leading manufacturer

The Bosch Group is a leading global manufacturer of automotive and industrial technology, consumer goods, and building technology. In fiscal 2004, some 242,000 associates generated sales of 40 billion euros. Set up in Stuttgart in 1886 by Robert Bosch (1861-1942) as "Workshop for Precision Mechanics and Electrical Engineering," the Bosch Group today comprises a manufacturing, sales and after-sales service network of some 260 subsidiaries and more than 10,000 service centers in over 130 countries.

In the Philippines, Robert Bosch Inc. is a 100-percent subsidiary company of Robert Bosch GmbH, Germany.

Bosch established its market presence in the Philippines close to 80 years ago—40 years of which were through its appointed agency, F.E. Zuellig Inc. In April 1995, Robert Bosch Inc. was founded as a wholly owned subsidiary.

Not all cars are ethanol-compatible

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

ONE OF THE KEY COMPONENTS in the government's Energy Independence Agenda is the increased development and use of alternative fuels such as coco-biodiesel, fuel ethanol and compressed natural gas (CNG).

In newspaper supplements celebrating National Energy Week, the Department of Energy described bioethanol as a high-octane, water-free alcohol produced from the fermentation of sugar or converted starch. The DoE says that bioethanol can be used as liquid fuel in internal combustion engines either on its own or blended with petroleum. Further, that 12 countries produce and use a significant amount of bioethanol, primarily Brazil, where one-third of the automobiles use pure bioethanol as fuel while the remaining two-thirds use a gasoline-ethanol blend.

Aside from lessening our dependence on imported oil, biofuels will generate dollar savings, revive our moribund sugar and coconut industries and reduce air pollution, the DoE says. Our government is promoting the production and use of gasoline with 5 percent ethanol (E5) while 10 percent (E10) is a future possibility.

Caveat

However, a caveat should be inserted here: not all cars can run safely on gasoline containing ethanol. While ethanol is clean-burning, reduces harmful emissions and is relatively cheap, it can damage the engine components of some models.

In Australia, E5 and E10 fuel are being introduced at some service stations following the federal government's push to make fuel ethanol mainstream, partly to help out sugar cane and wheat farmers. But the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV) advises motorists to check with their vehicle manufacturer before using E5 or E10. The RACV proposes that signs be placed on fuel pumps declaring the ethanol content and warning customers to check with carmakers before use. And that non-ethanol gasoline should also be offered and the government should not make adding ethanol to gasoline compulsory.

Most car manufacturers say E5 fuel is fine for new models as long as the ethanol has been prepared correctly (the base fuel was chemically adjusted at the refining stage) and is not contaminated with water. On the other hand, E10 fuel is not suitable for vehicles built before 1986 and several post-1986 and current models, they say.

Not anticipated

Australia's Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries (FCAI) explains that vehicles made before 1986 did not anticipate ethanol-blended gasoline and thus were not designed for its use. Besides, these cars are nearly 20 years old with technology that has limited ability to compensate for the effects of ethanol. Having been subjected to at least 20 years of wear and tear, pre-'86 cars are consequently more sensitive to the effects of ethanol.

Pre-1986 vehicles are predominantly equipped with carburetors and steel fuel tanks. As the carburetor is the mechanism supplying fuel to the engine, it has a limited ability to compensate for the additional air (ethanol has 34.7 percent oxygen) that causes the engine to run lean. This can cause preignition, which will not only affect driveability but may also lead to engine damage. There is also the probability of vapor lock or increased hot restarting problems.

The FCAI adds that as a solvent, ethanol attacks both metallic and rubber-based fuel lines and other fuel system components. Unless the fuel system components have been chosen on the basis of compatibility with ethanol, the failure of plastic components in a fuel system may result.

Affinity

Since ethanol has an affinity to water, the corrosion of fuel tanks and fuel lines is possible. Rust can ultimately block the fuel supply, rendering the engine inoperable. Water in the fuel system can also result in the engine hesitating and running roughly, the FCAI says.

In fuel injection systems, the use of ethanol-blended gasoline may result in early deterioration of components such as injector seats, delivery pipes, fuel pump and regulator, the FCAI warns. Mechanical fuel injection systems and earlier electronic systems may be unable to fully compensate for the lean-out effect of ethanol fuel, resulting in hesitation or flat spots during acceleration, difficulty in starting and engine hesitation after cold start. Moreover, the increased vapor pressure of incorrectly prepared ethanol fuel will lead to increased evaporative emissions in old cars.

Meanwhile, E10 is not recommended for some current models that comply with international standards of the European Union, where the maximum level of ethanol blended gasoline is E5. If cars with engine systems optimized to run on E5 are fueled with blends above the E5 level (such as 10 percent), driveability problems as well as increased levels of exhaust and evaporative emissions may result.

Fuel lean-out

The additional oxygen content in E10 can cause fuel lean-out beyond the range that can be corrected by the engine management system, causing engine hesitation or "flat spots" during certain driving conditions. If this happens, the driver should revert to using nonethanol fuel. The use of E10 in E5-compatible vehicles may also result in material compatibility problems in the fuel system.

The FCAI has a list of vehicles that may have difficulties with E10 gasoline. But this should not concern us at present since E10 is still a distant possibility here. What most people don't know is that we import ethanol and the construction of ethanol-producing plants is still in the planning stage. When fuel ethanol is finally made available nationwide, car manufacturers would do well to inform consumers which models are E5- and/or E10-compatible.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: A woman is like a tea bag—you don't know how strong she is until you put her in hot water.

Yokohama tires help O'Hara win Round 12 of AF3

IRELAND'S JOHN O'HARA OF Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO, ruled Round 12 at the Batangas Racing Cir5cuit (BRC) in 15 minutes and 33.954 seconds for his third victory in this year's Asian Formula 3 Grand Prix.

O'Hara led from start to finish, pulling away each lap from Indonesia's Ananda Mikola and Macau's Rodolfo Avila. At the start, O'Hara and Mikola got away quickly while Avila was slow off the mark. Avila out-braked the Philippines' Dado Peña into turn one while Tyson Sy, also of the Philippines, attempted to overtake both of them from the outside. This resulted in contact with Dado Peña and damaged the suspension of the latter that caused him to retire from the race.

Performing better

"(The Yokohamas) seemed to perform better after the first four or five laps," said O'Hara, who was racing on a Dallara F301 Tori Toyota chassis-engine setup. "The car got better as the race wore on. Tire control was perfect, especially at the high-speed corners. Braking at the high-speed corners was really good," he said.

O'Hara also praised the low wear rate of the tires, saying: "I could push (the car) throughout all the laps. Even in the past races, the tires were consistent throughout the entire race."

Christian Jones Motorsport team engineer Joshua Evans had similar observations: "The tires didn't change their grip from start to finish. Grip was excellent both in high- and low- speed corners. They had good stability when braking. Our drivers were confident their cars wouldn't spin even if pushed harder lap after lap."

Holiday cost for pedestrians . . .

From page B2-1

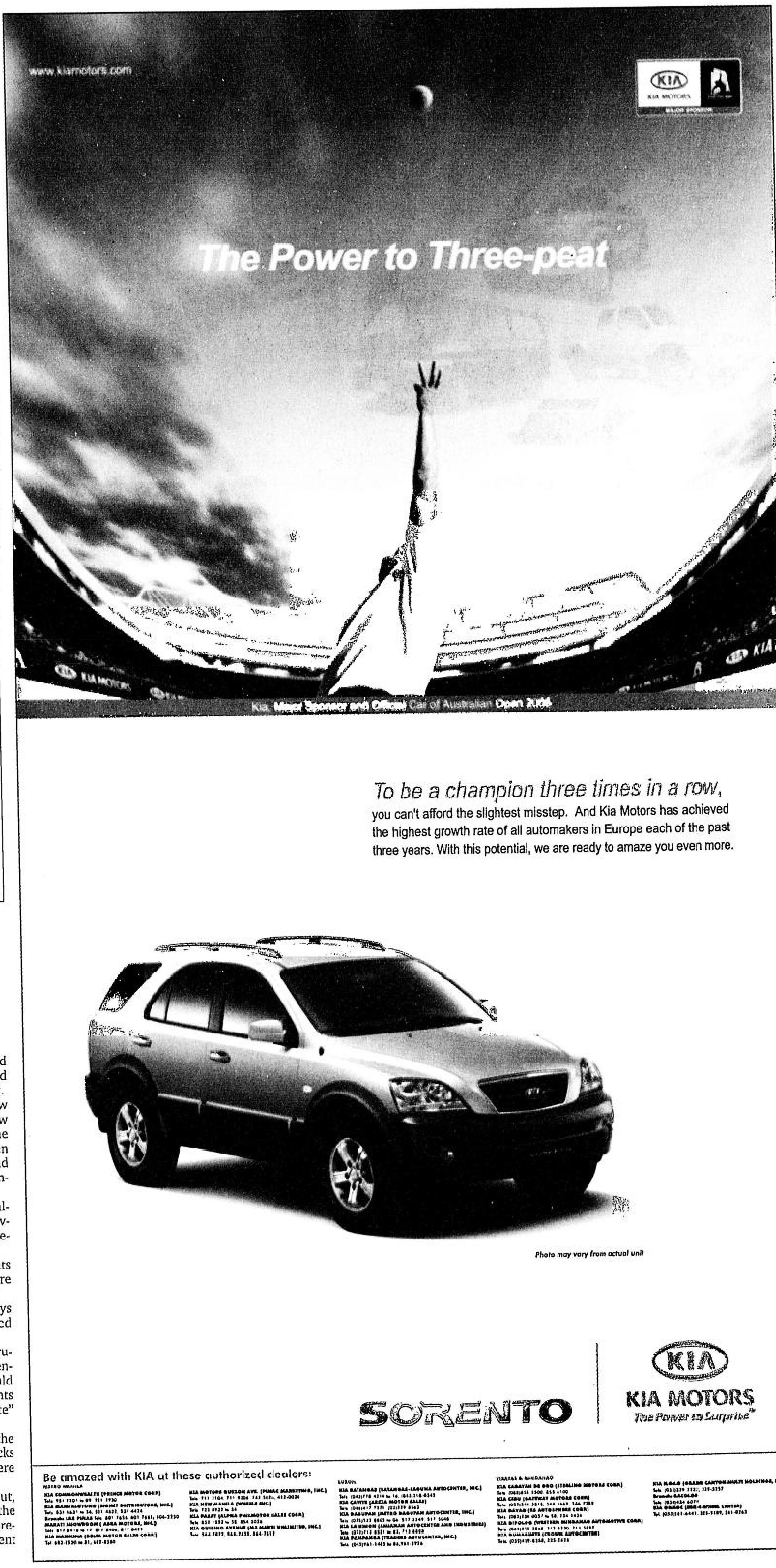
Safe Kids Philippines is an NGO working to prevent injury to children. Its local corporate partner is FedEx Express. According Consunji, who is a trauma surgeon, here are what parents traveling or commuting with children must do:

- Avoid traveling not only during rush hours but also at night when drivers' visibility is diminished.
- Wear light-colored or reflective clothing even during the day to maximize visibility to motorists.
- Use only pedestrian overpasses and designated crosswalks to cross the streets.
- Walk facing oncoming traffic and in well-lit portions of the road.
- Accompany all children when they travel on or near roads, and ensure that children younger than 10 years old do not cross the street on their own.
- Make sure that children walk on the inner side of the street, at the farthest possible point from oncoming traffic.

Advice to PUV drivers

Here are what Jacobo's technical working group advises public utility drivers or operators.

- PUVs should not overload with passengers; buses should close their doors while running.
- Tricycles should not allow children to stand at the narrow platform at the coach or at the back of the driver. Children should not be allowed to stand on the *estribo* (vehicle entrance).
- Children should not be allowed to hitch or hold on to moving vehicles while on their skateboard.
- Truck drivers and assistants should be sure truckloads are evenly distributed.
- Motorists should always carry spare tires, not recapped tires.
- Truck operators should scrutinize the experience and credentials of their drivers. They should not allow trainees or assistants *(pahinantes)* to be "substitute" drivers.
- Trucks should stay at the right lane, and empty trucks should be driven as if they were full.
- In the event of a tire blowout, drivers should not floor the brakes but glide the vehicle carefully to a stop using intermittent pressure on the brake pedal.



To be a champion three times in a row,
you can't afford the slightest misstep. And Kia Motors has achieved the highest growth rate of all automakers in Europe each of the past three years. With this potential, we are ready to amaze you even more.

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2ND CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

61 mediapersons to pick among 70 cars

By Tessa R. Salazar

Cagi has refrained itself from soliciting support from carmakers

THE 61 MOTORING JOURNALISTS and broadcasters comprising the Car Awards Group Inc. (Cagi) will exercise once more the power of the collective vote as the second Car of the Year Philippines (Coty-P) drive-test fest commences in January and continues through February 2006 to determine the motoring media's choice for their best car for 2005.

And just like any competition, last year's category winners will have the chance to defend their titles. Cars that didn't pass muster in 2004 must have had upgrades or "improved editions" to be included in this year's roster of candidates.

The drive-test fest, exclusive to motoring media for safety and technical considerations, will be conducted within the tranquil Forest Hills in Antipolo on Jan. 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 and 29, Feb. 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26.

The awards night will be held in March, one week before the Manila Motor Show slated from April 6 to 10, 2006 at the World Trade Center. The winning cars of the 2nd Coty-P will have their first public appearances as winners at the motor show.

New category

For the second edition of Coty-P, Cagi has decided to create a new category—the multi-purpose vehicle (MPV), to cover the gray area overlapping Asian utility vehicles (AUVs), crossover vehicles and other people movers.

Manny de los Reyes, this year's Cagi president, explained that the term "AUV" is actually a local designation, while the rest of the motoring media in the Asean region have designated AUVs as MPVs.

De los Reyes added that a number of classifications now are differentiated by price to reflect actual purchase preferences. He cited that a buyer looking for a 1600cc Toyota Corolla or Honda Civic wouldn't necessarily include a BMW 316i in his or her option just because it has a similar engine displacement.

De los Reyes, who had inspected the test venue thoroughly, described the roads inside Forest Hills as having a good combination of short straights, sweeping curves and tight corners with a lot of elevation changes, resulting in some steep inclines.

"This should reward cars with good torque, traction and braking systems. There are also some parts (of Forest Hills) that are a bit rough, to simulate real world bumps and potholes. It doesn't have the long stretches of our venue last year but presents a more realistic driving environment," he said.

Instrumented tests

Cagi—which opened its membership to the media in 2004 with Armin Amio as its first president—seeks to measure each candidate vehicle's performance scientifically and objectively, and it does so with the use of instrumented testing. Armin Amio, Cagi past president and executive director, asserts that these instrumented tests are what separate Coty-P from other car awards organizations. "The instrumented testing defines Coty-P," she said.

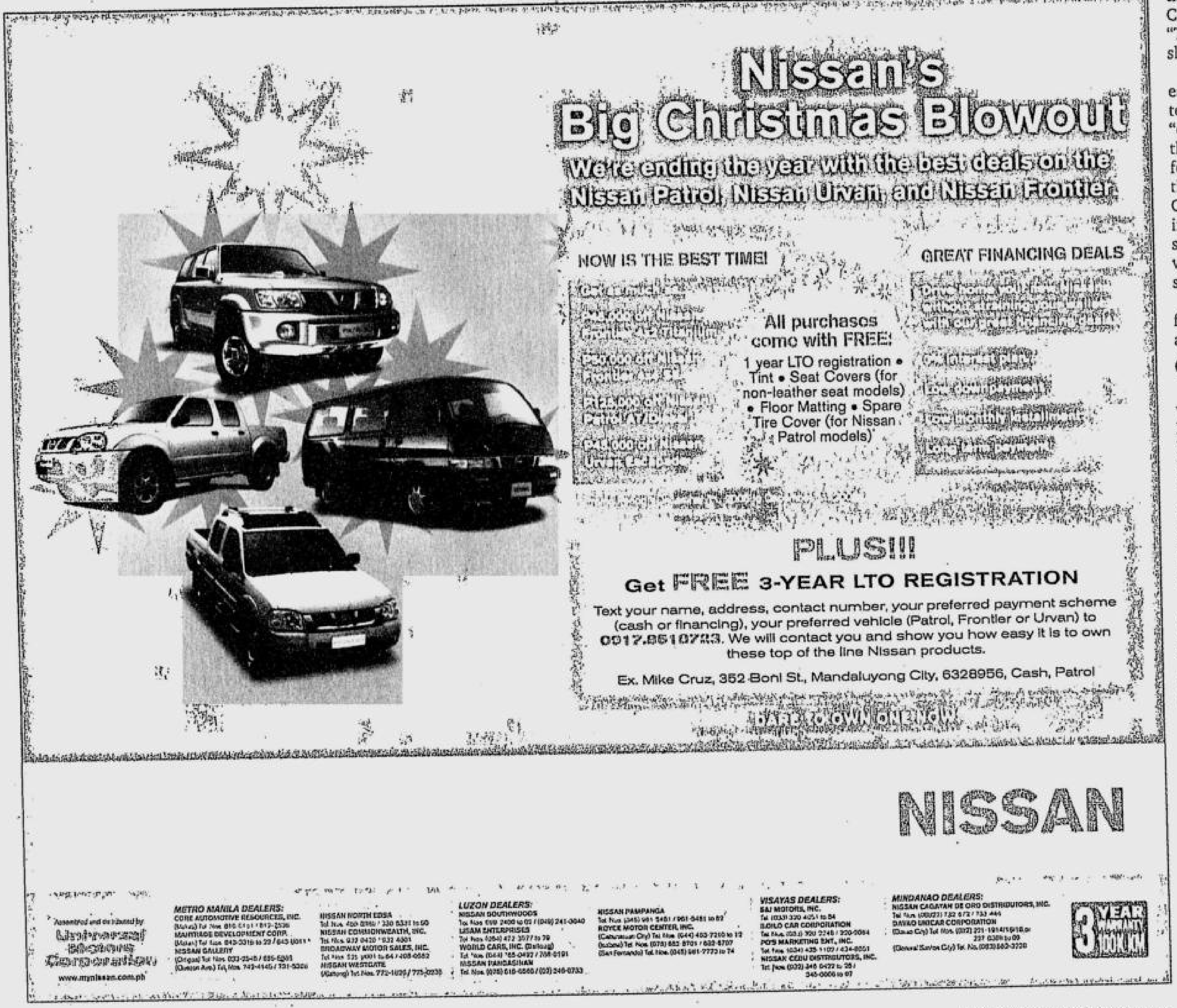
Cagi makes the driving experience for each writer/evaluator constant during the test fests. Coty-P's testfests also open up "elusive" cars to Cagi members—vehicles that may have been otherwise inaccessible for most motoring journalists because of their prohibitive prices. In this process, the Cagi test fests enrich motoring media's driving experiences, and at the same time resolve numerous issues and consolidate views on specific driving experiences on the spot.

And like before, Cagi has refrained itself from soliciting support from carmakers to avoid tilting votes to favor "big" sponsors.

Classifications

Ulysses Ang, test fest coordinator, revealed the following classifications: Mini, P750,000 and below; Compact, P750,001 to P999,000; Executive, P1,000,000 to P2,499,000; Luxury, P2,500,000 to P3,999,000; Ultra-Luxury, P4,000,000 and above; Entry-Level SUV, P1,400,000 and below; Luxury SUV, P1,400,001 to P3,999,000; Ultra-Luxury SUV, P4,000,000 and above; Entry-Level MPV, P1,200,000 and below; Luxury MPV, P1,200,001 and above.

The other categories include pickups, dream cars or "ultimate road machines" (no displacement limits and no price ceilings). The sponsor's choice award is a new category, which has replaced the media's choice award.



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From December 5 up to December 31, 2005 only. *Petron fuel issued by Nissan Motor Philippines, Inc. (NMPI) through a pick-a-prize program. Promo valid only for vehicles assembled and distributed by NMPI. All financing packages subject to bank approval. See flyers for more details. Per DTI-IV-A Permit No. 11-103, Series of 2005

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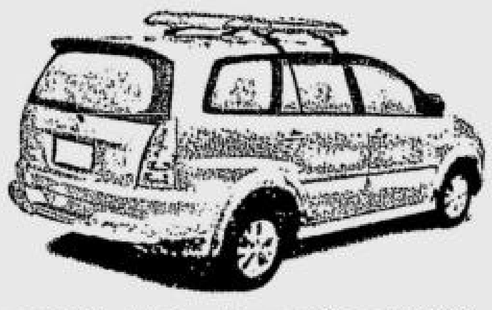

INNOVA with Carryboy genuine accesories

Carryboy full aero body kits for Toyota Innova

ADJUDGED AMONG THE FEW TOP winners in the prestigious Transport Show held at the Mega Trade Hall of SM Megamall in Pasig City in September this year, Carryboy Philippines Inc., sole authorized distributor of genuine accessories of Carryboy Thailand, introduced to the market the Full Aero Body Kits for Toyota Innova.

Stylish front and rear nudge guards and lower skirts with matching side skirt options of either ABS plastic or aluminum finish, fender flares and wrap-around body claddings is a sure head turner for your Innova. These perfect fitting genuine accessories are made of imported ABS plastic, a material widely used by car manufacturers for their original equipment parts today for its high resistance to deformity, light weight, and strong paint adhesion.

Installation

Carryboy is poised to dispatch experienced product technicians to any Toyota dealership in Metro Manila and receive Innova owners from their main office and showroom on Banawe Street, Quezon City, for installation of this fashionable body kits backed up with a 6-month warranty on product and workmanship defects.

Jun Ylagan III, president of Carryboy Philippines, understands customers' demands. Said Ylagan: "We Filipinos naturally want to stand out from the ordinary. In buying new cars, we get excited dressing it up with accessories from small ones, pairs and up to full packages just to satisfy our cravings for a customized look. I believe we are the only one offering this perfect-fit aero body kit at its quality and value-for-money for Toyota Innova in our market today."

To mark its launch in October 2005, set packages of these Innova body kits come with an option to pick one freebie accessory also for Innova.

Visit Carryboy today at 94 Banawe cor. Macopa Street, QC, call 740-0525 and 740-0530 or visit its website at www.carryboyphil.com.

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
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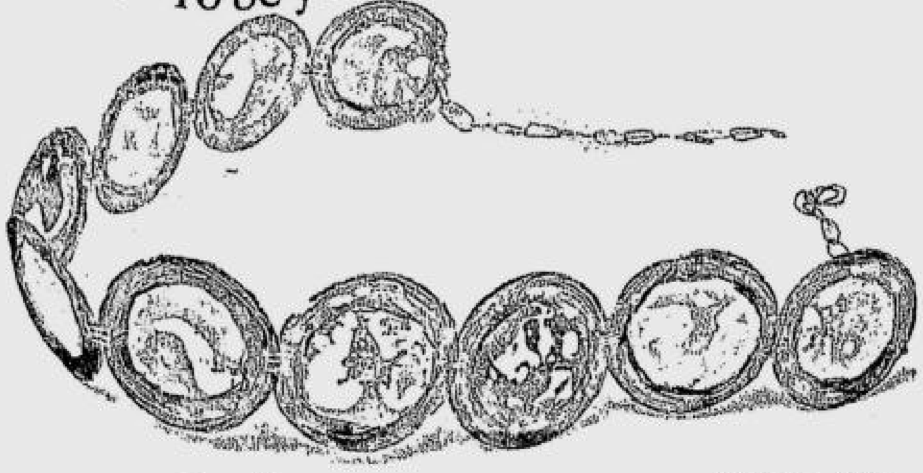
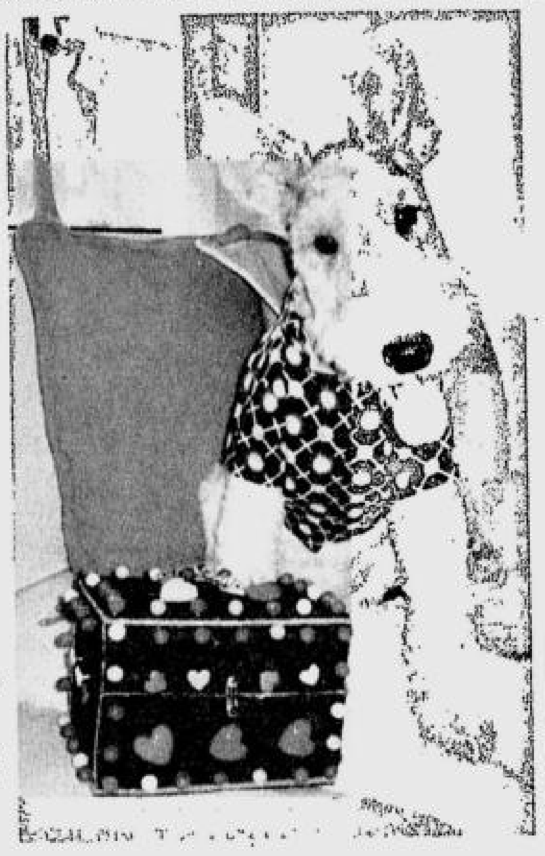
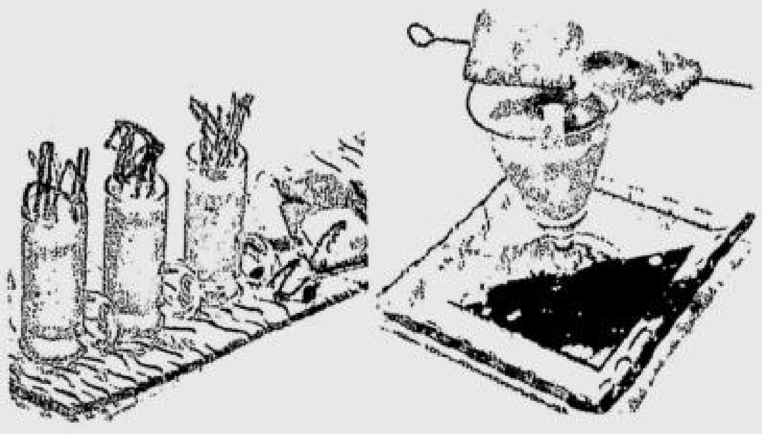
Get 1 FREE MULAWIN Visor when you buy a regular dozen DUNKIN' DONUTS
Promo period is from December 1 to 25, 2005. See posters for details.
GMA
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 6673, Series of 2005

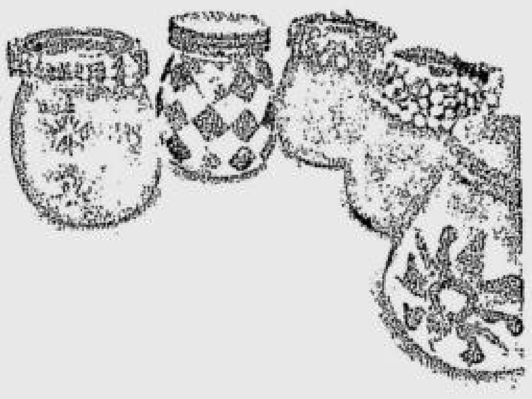






Have a DIY Christmas

Not everyone has the cash to throw around this season. And so this week, we're helping you tap into your creativity so you can enjoy the holidays, do-it-yourself style.



We called in the experts to help you out. One of our favorite chefs will show you how to transform fast-food favorites into a gourmet meal for your loved ones. Some of our favorite designers will tell you how you can change everyday things into great accessories and gifts. And to challenge your artistic side even more, 2bU! has partnered with two different brands—Astring-O-Sol and Lady's Choice—for do-it-yourself promos that will add even more dazzle to your holidays. Make your own pretty pouch or Christmas décor and you might just win extra shopping money or even a trip to Hong Kong for two. Ho ho ho! Get those creative juices flowing!

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7:30 pm, December 15 to 23 • SM Megamall - Megatrade Hall 1
Celebrating Priests:
Dec. 15 - Thurs. - Rev. Msgr. Esteban U. Lo, LRMS
Dec. 16 - Fri. - Rev. Fr. Mario S. Sobrejuanite, SSP
Dec. 17 - Sat. - Rev. Fr. Nolan A. Que
Dec. 18 - Sun. - Rev. Msgr. Roberto C. Canlas
Dec. 19 - Mon. - Most Rev. Jesse E. Mercado, D.D.
Dec. 20 - Tues. - Rev. Fr. Joel O. Jason
Dec. 21 - Wed. - Rev. Fr. Dave T. Concepcion
Dec. 22 - Thurs. - Most Rev. Luis Antonio G. Tagle, D.D.
Dec. 23 - Fri. - Rev. Fr. Genaro O. Diwa

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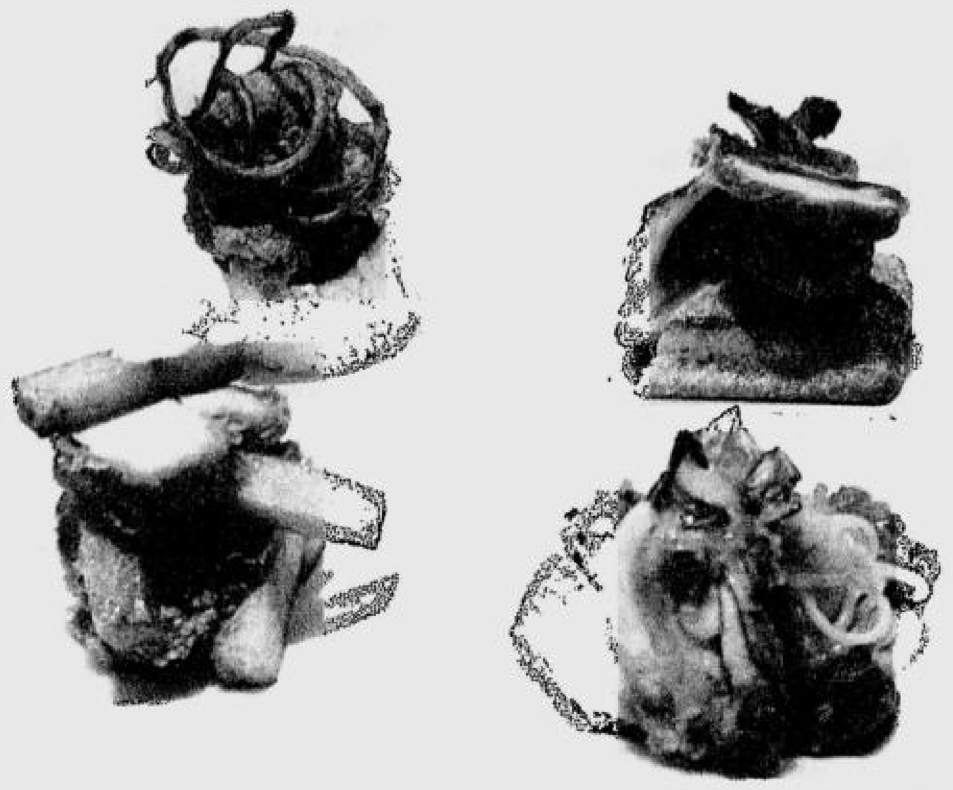
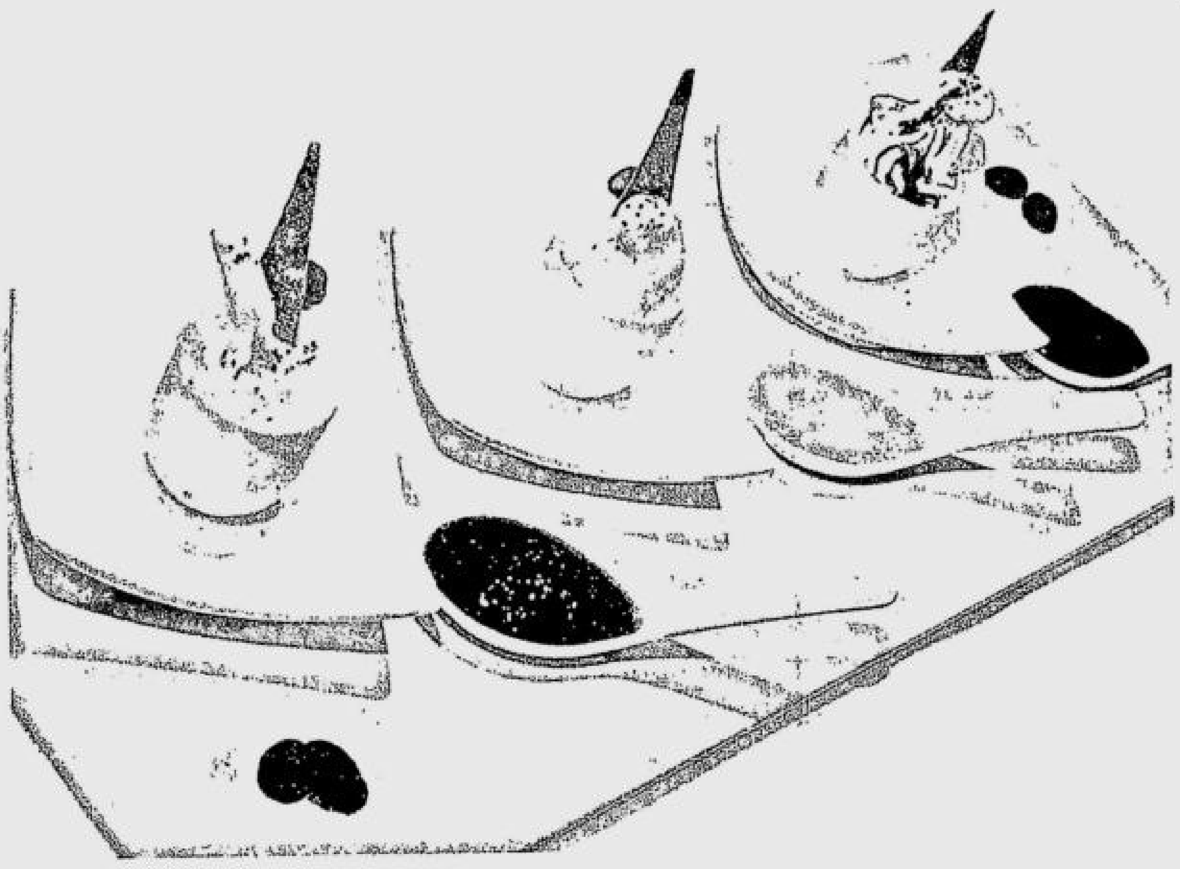


QUARTET of Chickenjoy. Chickenjoy with rice, Chickenjoy with fries, Chickenjoy with Pizza Melt Pie and Chickenjoy with Jolly Spaghetti

From fast foo to fast gour



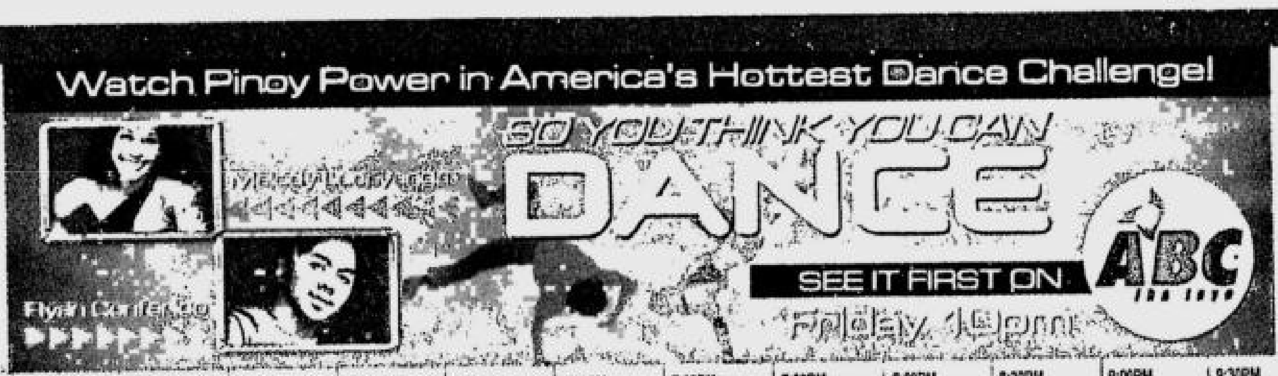
TRIO OF SUNDAES. Strawberry, Chocolate and Mango Caramel

CHEF Ariel Manuel in action

Yesterday's favorite burger can be today's h entrée—let this kitchen warrior show you how

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Wednesday, December 14, 2005



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SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE

SEE IT FIRST ON ABC

Friday, 10pm

ClickTheCity.com

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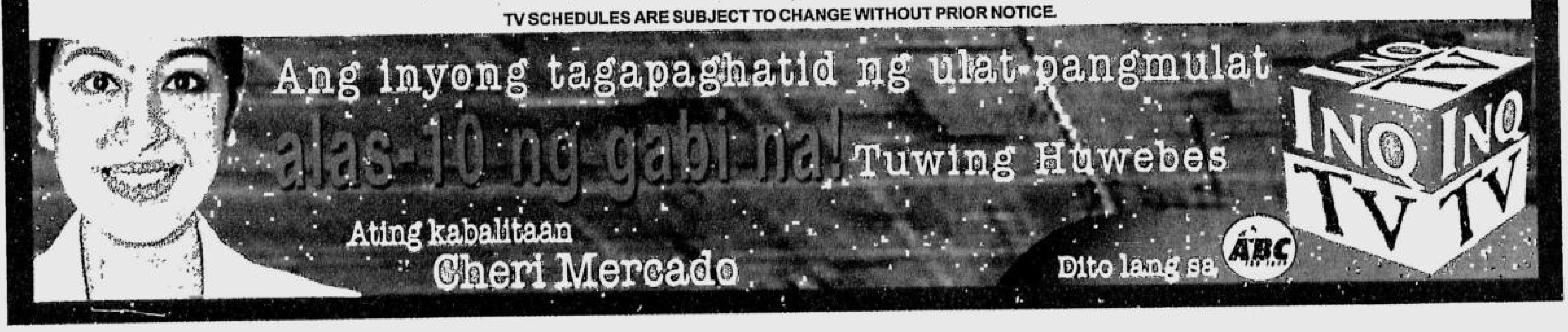
Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5			Winner TV Shopping		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Rockstar: Inxs		Dokyu	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Kampanerang Kuba	Panday	Vietnam Rose	Pinoy Big Brother	S.O.C.O			Insider
AXN		House		Las Vegas		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Amazon		The Outer Limits (Season IV)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Ultimate Guinness World Records	The Amazing Race Family Edition		CSI: Miami (Season 3)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)	
Cartoon Network	Johnny Bravo	Dexter's Laboratory	Powerpuff Girls	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Codename: Kids Next Door		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers	Battle B-Daman	Machine Robo-Rescue	X-Men Evolution	Samurai Jack	Justice League	Static Shock	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers
Cinema One		Ang Magiligpit				Yamashita: The Tiger's Treasure				Booba			Persona	Tanging Yaman (9:15 PM)				So Happy Together	
Cinemax			That Touch Of Mink (3:45 PM)				A Slight Case Of Murder			It Could Happen To You (7:15 PM)				Money Talks			Mistrial		
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
Discovery Channel		Mostly True Stories		Hyperspace With Sam Neil		Animal Face-Off		Mysteries Of Asia		China's Man Made Marvels		Hour China		Mythbusters 3		Walking With Prehistoric Beasts		Hour Asia	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			American Dragon		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN	Pool/ Snooker World Pool Masters '05 UK		Arc./ Big Ten Chall: Minnesota Vs Maryland				Rewind: World Badminton C'ships '05				Goal!	Sportscenter Asia	Pro Billiards '05 Men's Sudden Death 7-Ball		Boxing Series Friday Night Fights				Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Committed	Knock First	1 Hr. Edited Version Of Today Show		Eliminidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Complete Savages	What I Like About You	Veronica Mars		Last Comic Standing		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	Marriage Works in Christ	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Faith In Motion	Adventures In Odyssey	EWTN Original Productions	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Defending Life	EWTN Gallery	In The Heart Of The Church	Mother Angelica Live Classics		One In Their Hearts	Catholic Social Teaching	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Carpenter's Shop	Our Father's Plan	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Date With Tiffany		Dragonball Z	Slam Dunk	Frog Prince	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Sugo	Encantadia	Starstruck 3	Jewel In The Palace		Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched IV	Five Days To Midnight		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Who's The Boss	Bewitched IV	The Nanny III	Family Law II		Five Days To Midnight		Fielder's Choice			Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye II		Family Law II (11:25PM)
HBO		I'll Be There (3:15 PM)				Patch Adams (5:15 PM)				The Rundown (7:15PM)				The Calcium Kid			Angels In America Chapter 1: Bad News		Angels In America Chapter 2: In Vitro
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	EZ Shop		Global Family Series		Japan Video Topics		Global Family Series		Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	Shorties Watching Shorties	South Park	Banzai	Wwe Raw				Filter	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		Dr. Katz	Premium Blend	Shorties Watching Shorties	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Mad TV		The Sib Show	Street Smarts
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	The Next Wave		Style Star	Life & Style		Intimate Portrait		Breathing Room	Genuine Article
MTV Philippines	Jams	Whatever Things	MTV Hits	Hanging Out	The 70's House	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				Homecoming	Get Spotted	TRL		Viva La Bam	Laguna Beach	Get Hitch'd	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		Protecting The President		Faces And Places			Extreme Latitude	Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Made In Hong Kong		Faces And Places	
NBN				New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Sea Games				Teledyaryo				Krusada Kontra Krimen		Pantay OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	The Fairly Odd Parents/Danny Phantom/All That/Viewer's Choice			1, 2, 3	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	The Brothers Garcia		
PBO			Topika Lite & Live				Hitman				AB Normal				Balweg				Gloria Labandera
Qtv		Endless Christmas (Navidad Sin Fin)	Mariana (Sin Pecado Concebido)	Cabalita	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Golden Bowl	Star	Laugh To Laugh: Ang Kulit	Pusong Wagi		All In	News On Q	Balikbayan		Groupee TV	
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberrys	Sponge Bob	As Told By Ginger	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Iron Chef		Trading Spouses		Extreme Make-Over		Newswatch Now	Keep Up The Good Work		
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Bmg Video			
Solar Sports		FIVB World Champ Cup Men's Event: Bra vs. Egy				Denmark Open Men's Singles Finals		Denmark Open Wmn's Singles Finals		Sagupaan	NBA Jam	Sportsdesk		Boxing Nights: Mosley vs Wright					
Sports Plus				Big 12 College Football						NBA Game Now Jersey @ Washington					NBA Game Miami @ Chicago				
Star Movies		Dance With Me (3:05 PM)				Odd Girl Out (5:15 PM)				Erin Brockovich (6:50 PM)				Nature Unleashed: Volcano			The Girl Next Door (10:35PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends	Smallville		Medical Investigation		The Practice		Friends	Smallville
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	The Amazing Race Family Edition		CSI (8:20 PM)	Life As We Know It (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me

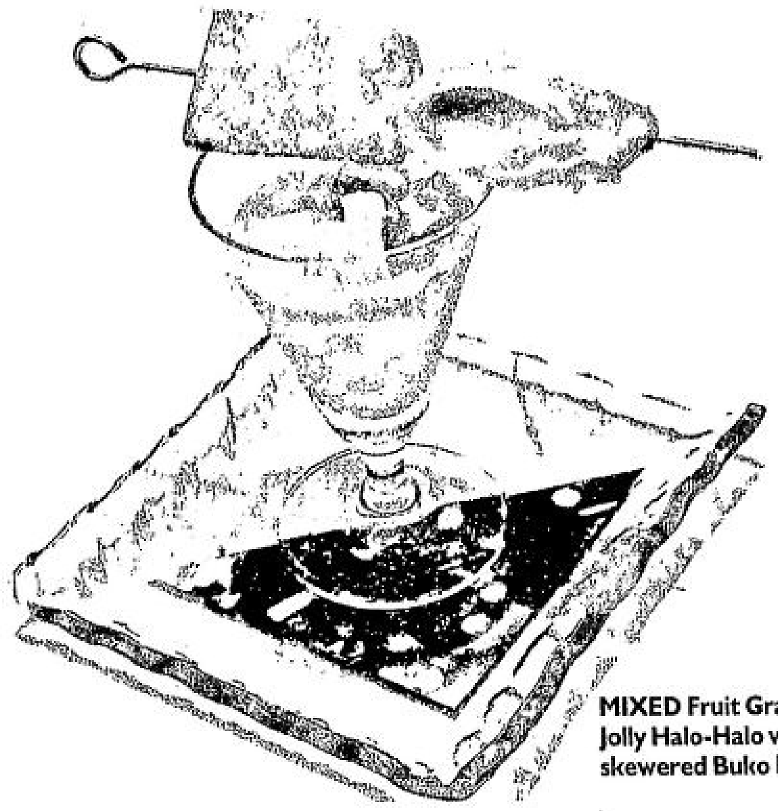
TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



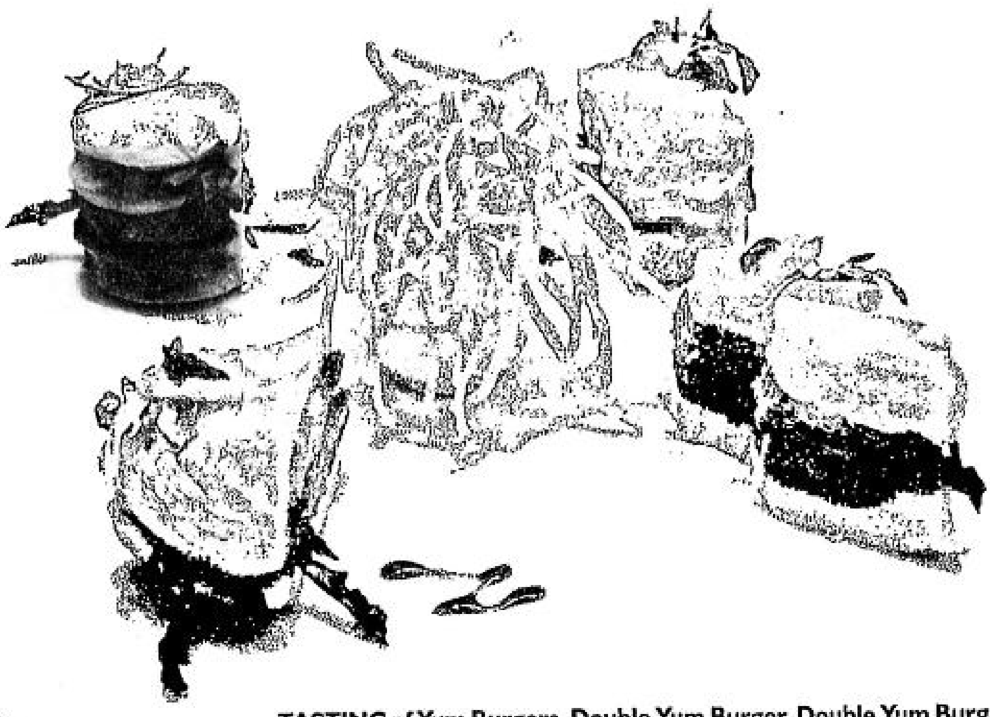
Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PIES AND SLUSH. Two kinds of Jolly Shakes and two kinds of dessert pies—Choco Mallow and Peach Mango Pie



MIXED Fruit Granita. Jolly Halo-Halo with skewered Buko Pina Pie



TASTING of Yum Burgers. Double Yum Burger, Double Yum Burger with Cheese, Double Yum Burger with Bacon, Double Yum Burger with Mushrooms with shoestring potatoes and cheese sauce

od met

ot

By Pam Pastor

TIS THE SEASON FOR throwing parties. But if you're a klutz in the kitchen and you don't have the cash for caterers, preparing food for your guests might be your biggest hurdle.

Before you decide to toss your party idea and drown your sorrows in a huge tub of microwave popcorn, set your sights on the least likely place—your favorite fast-food stop.

Oh yes, you can turn your over-the-counter staples into gourmet dishes with a little help from pretty plates, garnishes and a good knife.

Let one of 2bU!'s favorite chefs show you how.

Jollidad's?

Chef Ariel Manuel, the genius behind the palate-pleasing resto Lolo Dad's, gamely faced our challenge.

Used to making unforgettable meals out of gourmet ingredients—from *foie gras* and the freshest oysters to tender cuts of lamb and the most succulent steaks, this time, we asked chef Ariel to focus his attention on Pinoy comfort food.

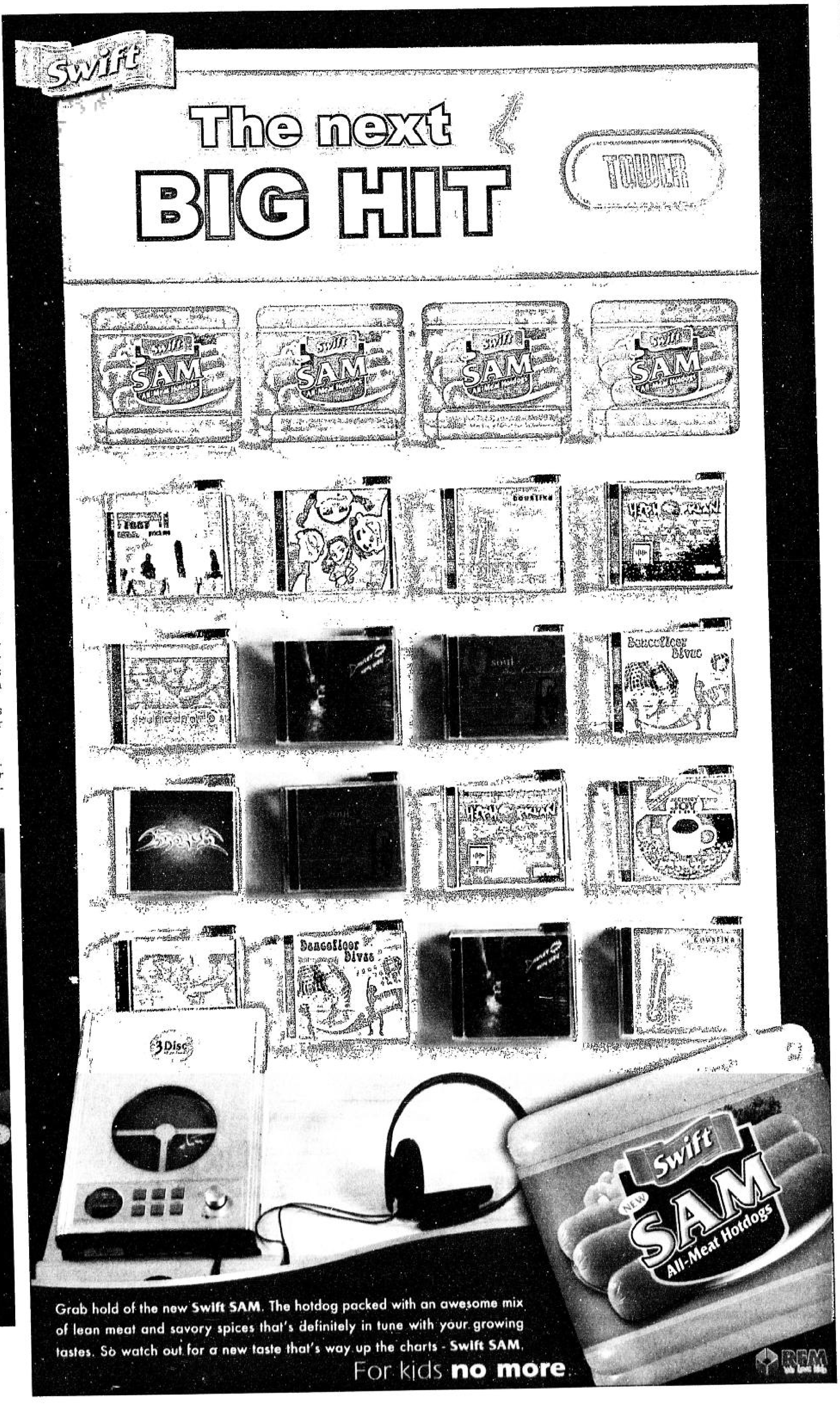
We asked him to create a gourmet meal out of popular Jollibee products.

Using Yum! Burgers, Jolly Spaghetti, Jolly Crispy Fries, Chickenjoy, Meat Pies and Jolly 'Zerts, chef Ariel made five different dishes that you can also recreate in your own kitchen.

Unleash your inner chef with these hot tips and impress your friends with your flair for fast gourmet.

Visit Lolo Dad's at 899 President Qurino Ave. cor. Leon Guinto St., Malate Manila. Visit your favorite Jollibee branch or call 87000 for delivery.

TLE cheese sauce goes a long way.



Grab hold of the new **Swift SAM**. The hotdog packed with an awesome mix of lean meat and savory spices that's definitely in tune with your growing tastes. So watch out for a new taste that's way up the charts - **Swift SAM**.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dress up your pouch

And win a trip for two to Hong Kong

HAPPY David made cute denim pouches that can be used to carry Astring-O-Sol minis and can also be used to stash your cash and your sleek mobile phones.

WE'VE ALWAYS KNOWN that 2bU! readers are a creative lot. You've proven that again and again every time you join our contests. We've received websites, flash animations, scrapbooks, movies, songs, poems, comic strips, papier mâché masterpieces—the list goes on and on.

And your creativity has won you numerous things, from CDs and concert tickets to mobile phones and mp3 players.

This time, believe it or not, your creativity might just take you to Hong Kong on a trip for two with accommodations.

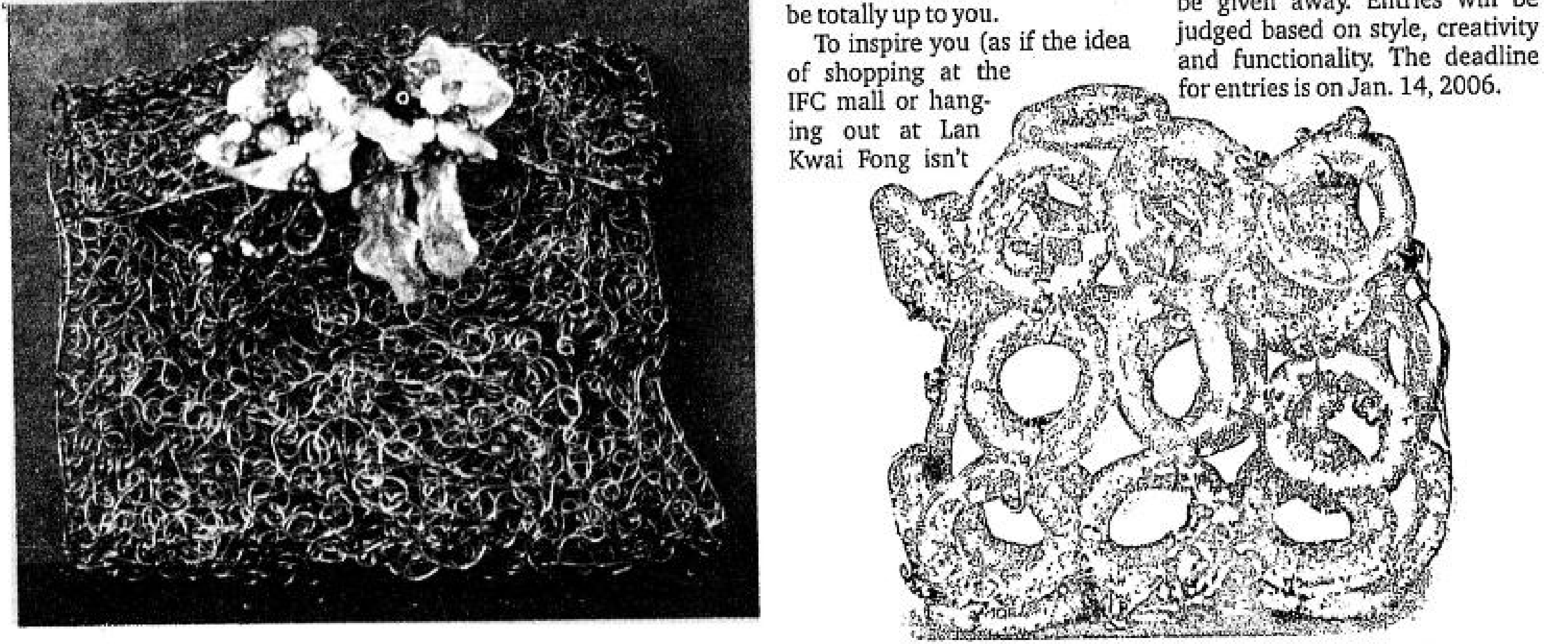
Now, 2bU! and Astring O Sol are throwing a challenge your way. Create the perfect pouch that you would use for carrying your Astring O Sol Minis. The choice of material and design will be totally up to you.

To inspire you (as if the idea of shopping at the IFC mall or hanging out at Lan Kwai Fong isn't enough inspiration), we asked two of our favorite young accessories designers, Ming Ong of Kathang Kamay and Happy David of Get Happy, to make their own pouches.

Take your cue from them, stock up on Astring O Sol minis and get started on your pouches.

Send your finished pouches to Unit 2714 City and Land Mega Plaza ADB Ave. cor Garnet Rd. Ortigas Ave., Pasig City along with your name, age, school/office and contact info.

The grand prize is a trip for two to Hong Kong with accommodations. Three consolation prizes of P3,000 gift certificates will also be given away. Entries will be judged based on style, creativity and functionality. The deadline for entries is on Jan. 14, 2006.



MING Ong made two pouches—the "Masalimuot" Glamour Pouch (left) which evolved from a previous neckpeace design and the "Pinoy Pop!pped" Glamour Pouch—her take on a Pinoy pop design. Ming made sure the color of the resin matched the color of Astring-O-Sol. Both pouches can be used as party bags, too.

ANOTHER Get Happy pouch

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

THE MINI that packs a lot of gargles.

Holiday cheers in a bottle

THIS CHRISTMAS, YOU DON'T have to spend a fortune for new decorations to provide your home that true holiday spirit. Just a few materials you can find in your home combined with a touch of creativity can spell a colorful yet budget-friendly ambience.

Take for instance the new egg-shaped Lady's Choice jar.

Want to lighten up your living room? You can achieve a vibrant display of lighted candles with your Lady's Choice empty jars. After peeling off the label, turn them into elegant candle holder using glue and glitters.

Start by carefully creating your desired look for the jar using white glue, then, slowly sprinkle the glitters all over. Now place a candle inside the decorated jar, and voila!—Your own glitter candle votive!

You can make as many candle votives with as many designs as you want, and see your home glow with these decorative pieces.

Snow globes always provide that warm, comfy feeling during Christmas, and with just a few empty Lady's Choice egg-shaped jars, you can have these little Christmas pleasures in a snap.

You can recycle your old tiny toys or you may create your own artwork. Using a lump of clay or sealant, attach your design to the jar lid then carefully screw the lid into the jar, making sure it's tightly screwed and leak-free. Now you have your very own snow globe, which could also be a good Christmas gift to your family and friends.

YOUR design might win you a trip to Hong Kong.

You can make a dozen more creations with your empty bottles of Lady's Choice, like cut-out aquariums or piggy banks.

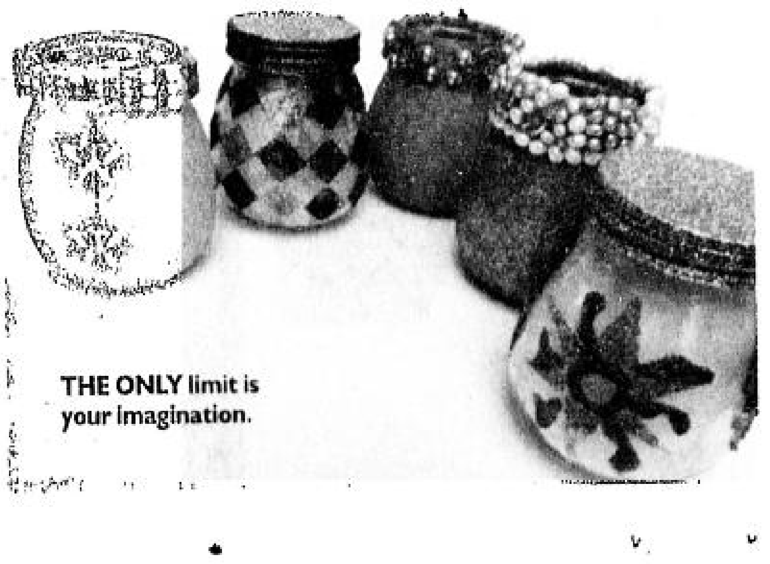
Check out Lady's Choice website www.ladyschoice.ph for more creative jar art ideas and become an expert on elegant home-made decorative items.

Now, 2bU! and Lady's Choice will be giving away prizes to people who will make the best Christmas decor out of Lady's Choice jars.

The first place winner will receive P5000 and a gift pack from Lady's Choice, the second place winner will receive P3000 and a gift pack and the third place winner will receive P2000 and a gift pack.

Send or drop off your entries at CEMG Suite B Vernida Bldg. Amorsolo St. Makati City. Don't forget to include your name, age, school/office and contact info.

CREATE a gorgeous glow.



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2BU! DIGITAL EXCHANGE PROMO

A hedgehog's Phone

By Gabriel H. Mercado
2bU! Contributor

AFTER RECENTLY HAVING used some of the most coveted products on the planet in connection with Digital Exchange's promotionals (see attached details), I realize I've reached an unenviable gadget-satiated state.

Consider, if you may, the iPod Nano, the Motorola Rokr and the Fujitsu F-810, among others, and switching to a mid-range phone like the Panasonic EB-VS3 can either be a welcome reprieve or a rude awakening. How can you possibly compete with 2gb of mp3s, 3,968 x 2,232 widescreen resolution, and disco lights that bump and thump along with the music?

Yet as I turned on the Panasonic after inserting my now promiscuous SIM card into its fourth home in as many weeks, I realized the value of simplicity. For while I had had to tinker with varied details in the others just to get it running right, with this one I just set the date and I was up and about my merry way.

Value

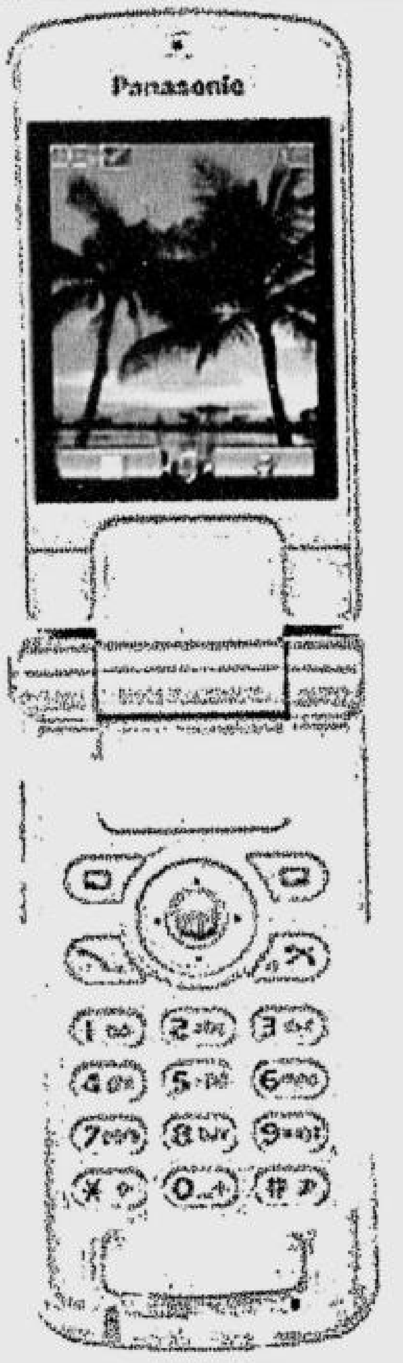
For a phone in the P15,000 to P24,000 range, the Panasonic EB-VS3 provides fairly good value. Most noted is the 2.2-inch QVGA bright TFT display. To be technical about it, that's "300 candela per square meter in 16 million colors," as appropriately announced on its box. Then there's its 1.3-megapixel camera, which might actually not be appreciated since the display is just so bright and clear that pictures taken from it look plain.

However, 1.3 megapixels is still among the industry's current highest standards. A fact you'll realize when you download the satisfactory 640x480 96 dpi results onto your PC via its USB cable and synching software, or send it via MMS or Infrared.

Other notable details about the phone include a replaceable front-loading cover, called by Panasonic with the fancy name "X-Changeable Cov-

A HEDGEHOG'S/ D3

The Panasonic EB-VS3 is noted for its simplicity and multifaceted qualities


PANASONIC EB-VS3

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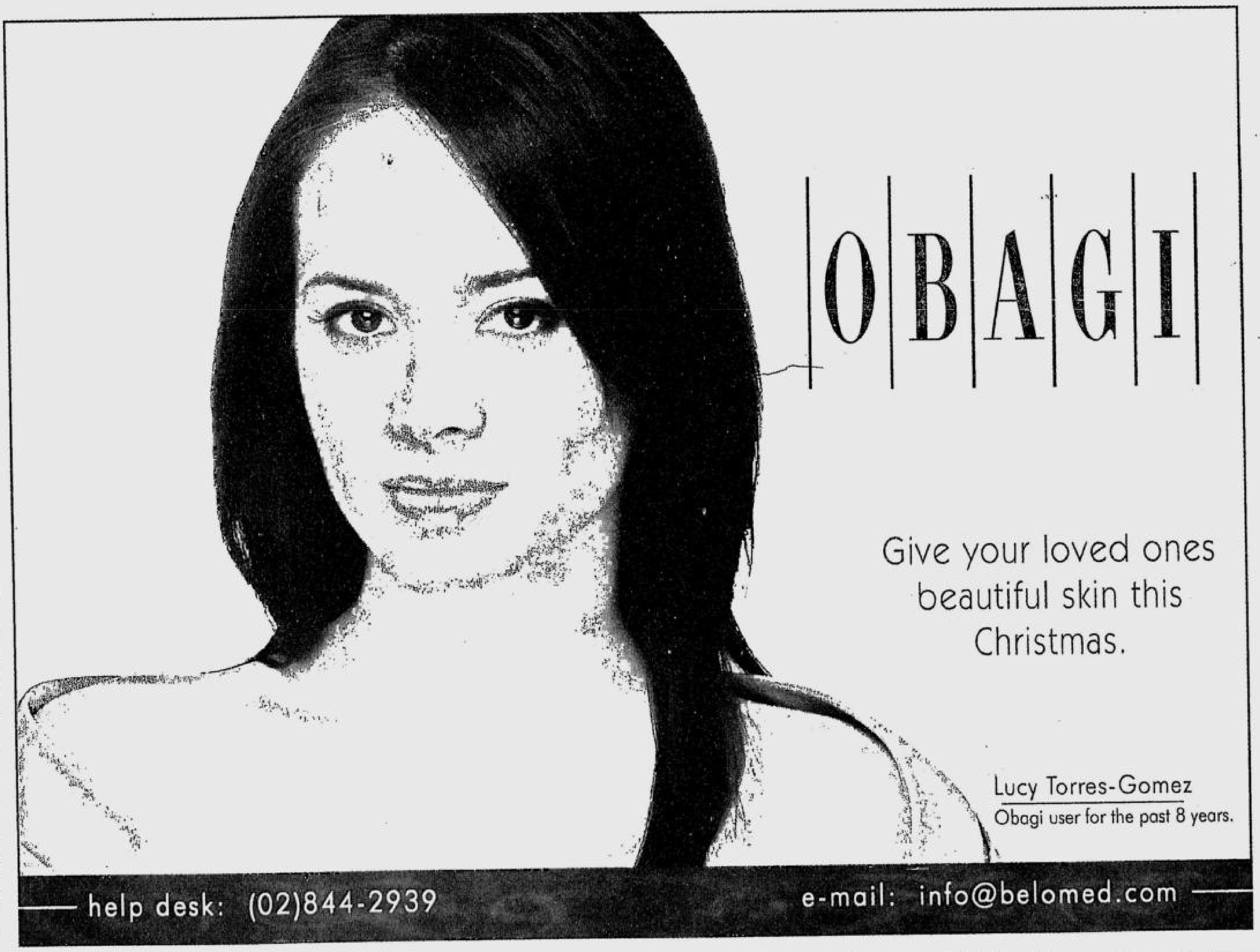
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We have a winner!

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HENRY Obispo's winning graffiti

HENRY BYRNE OBISPO of San Narciso, Zambales, will be going home with the Motorola E680i and Motorola HT820, thanks to his killer graffiti skills. "I created a large drawing on the wall using chalks, charcoal and pieces of broken clay pots." We know you worked hard for over a day, Henry. And so we're rewarding you for your efforts. We just hope you didn't get in too much trouble.

You, too, can be a winner!

Win this phone!

This week, 2bU! and Digital Exchange are giving away a Panasonic EB-VS3. If you want to join our contest, tell us why you deserve to win this phone in the most creative way you can. E-mail your entries to contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget your name, school/office and contact info!

A hedgehog's Phone

From page D1

ers," which comes with a screwdriver included in the box to help you install. I've always liked phones that can change covers, not necessarily because of any design enhancements, but rather, let's face it—because you might occasionally fool others into thinking you've a new phone every week. Admit it, the thought has crossed your mind, and no doubt the manufacturer's designers as well. If anyone asks, you can always say its just a cheap detachable plastic facia. But until they do, it wouldn't hurt to keep them guessing now, wouldn't it?

Pretty

Design wise, the Panasonic V series are fairly heavy on the brick factor, as opposed to the rounded edges of the just-as-popular X series. The EB-VS3 is no exception, looking square at a credit-card-like 96 mm high and 46 mm wide. It's light and slim at only 17.6 mm deep, however, and will easily slip into your handbag or pocket.

My test unit came at standard Silver (there's a black available), and is pretty androgynous. At least until you figure out how to work the "One Push Auto Open" feature. Basically a push-button doodad located at the hinge that allows you to quickly flip up the clamshell at the press of a button—almost like how my *lola* would snap open a fan with the flick of a wrist. Even the website assures us that "there is no harm to the nails," laying to rest any doubts as to its intended audience.

While that may be true, I'm sure the mostly male Trekkie fans out there will appreciate it as well, as finally here's a gadget that successfully mimics Captain Kirk and company's device for calling a beam-me-up-to-Engineer-Scotty. No doubt I feel like that whenever I use it, and that particular function seems to be the most appreciated whenever I show it off. Fortunately it seems to be rather sturdy as the novelty has yet to wear off. I only wish there's an appropriate accompanying sound.

Biggest draw

But finally, the phone's biggest draw is the fact that it contains a faithfully rendered, but of course smaller, version of Sega's famous Sonic The Hedgehog arcade game, where the speedy Sonic runs, guns and blasts away at level after level, exactly like one would on a console. The game is no doubt a testament to the phone's advanced graphics capabilities, as there is no slowdown or hesitation whatsoever.

Overall the Panasonic EB-VS3 offers value and ease of use while having a very bright screen, a fancy one-button open feature and a famous built-in game. If in the market, check it out at Digital Exchange Glorietta 3, or enter the contest and you might even win one.

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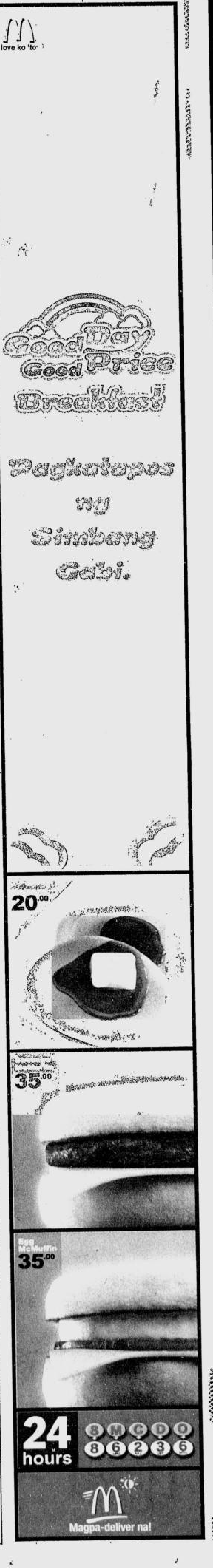
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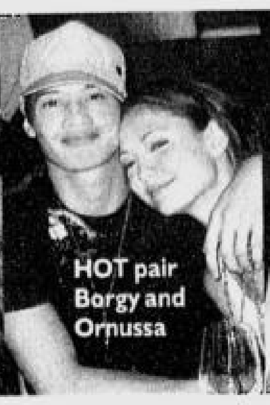
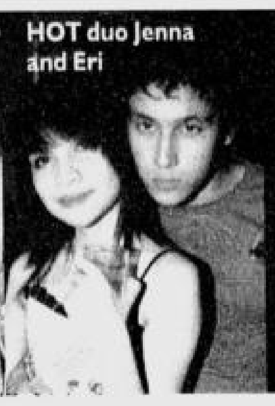


HOT pair Borgy and Ornussa



HOT duo Jenna and Eri

HOT trio Leica, Bob and Malu

MARI and Kim

BANGS mo 'to

DIOR mo 'to, says Mich

Where the wind blows

Tim Yap

YOUNG ARTIST **YASON Banal** knew exactly what he was talking about when he told me one night at Manila DJ Club that the arts and social scenes always needed a new infusion of energy and creativity to keep them from sliding to tedium and monotony.

I completely understood him, too. In a scene that is hungry to grow, new spots give the nightlife scene a fresh perspective. Gone are the days when Manila-philes complained that there "was nowhere to go."

The arts scene itself is on a major renaissance. Young art is well and alive. This generation is receptive to different forms of self-expression, and there is a growing audience for them.

Clothing designers have gone the route of experimentation, as shown by the likes of **Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo** and **Puey Quiñones**, who, instead of mounting the tried-and-tested gala show with 30-50 models, exhibited their creations as works in progress, providing better insight for the market. These artists are fueling changes in art-making and -marketing.

Citrus Lounge

On the nightlife front, two new alternative watering holes provided a preview of what they had to offer their guests for the holiday season.

The Lounge (formerly Bykes Café on Pasong Tamo) at La Fuerza Compound (right outside the Dasmariñas Village Lumbang Road gate) had a deluge of stylesetters when young design genius **Chut Cuerva** celebrated his turning a year wiser at the posh venue.

All of young, hip Makati was there to toast to the fresh prince of Essensa. The fact that the venue was "secret" added to the exclusivity of the affair.

Elbert Cuenca, veteran of various nightspots who is behind this new lounge, said the owners are planning to make it "for membership only," like the exclusive bars in London and New York. If this thing works, it will mark a certain maturity for Manila nightlifers.

The weekend saw me getting more than my extra dose of vitamin C as Citrus (the former V bar) opened its doors after months of renovation. **Louie Ysmael** and **Chito Melo** proudly welcomed guests at the door, and so did new queen of the night scene, **Bianca Zobel**, who danced the night away to the beat of ace spin doctor **Bombi Balquiedra**, not anymore the biggest industry secret. In fact, I predict 2006 to be the year of the Bombi, music-wise.

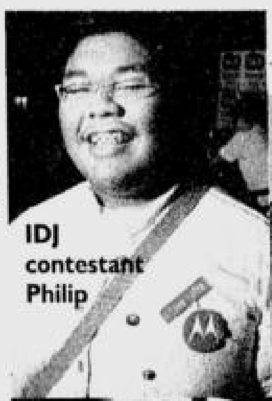
Designer **Anton Mendoza**, despite taking a break from going out, must be doing something right with his now "quiet" life. The interiors are grandiose but cozy. The orange-marked walls somehow have this healthy vibe where even if you're sipping your vodka, you'll think it's freshly squeezed breakfast juice you're drinking.

The semi-surround VIP area is also a great come-on, especially during these times when everybody thinks he or she is a VIP. (You know who you are!) Now, all the bars and clubs from Makati to Cebu have VIP areas! Red velvet rope suppliers, get ready.

Patron of subcultures

My mother editor **Chelo** always taught me to seek out the young and the young spots. That's exactly what I've been doing every week. Last Thursday, the iDJ search took me to the Manila DJ Club, fast becoming the hub for DJs in training, with special assistance from Motorola, patron saint of this subculture.

"We really want to push for new music to come out and define the generation and our city," said MDC main man **Dondon**, who was a veteran of the pumping Verve and Kemistry scene when Malate was still considered edgy and hip.



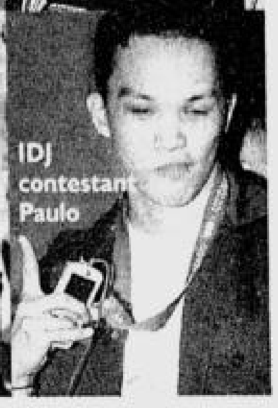
IDJ contestant Philip

IDJ contestant Gino

iDJ disco punk winner Bianca

MOTO host Isa

MOTO host Andie



IDJ contestant Paulo

Party folks need not be confused because there are also the Embassy, MDC (Manila Dance Club) and NBC (Tent, where a lot of parties are held, too).

Each party place has a different market, and my motto when it comes to these things is—"the more, the merrier."

I hear that more entrepreneurs are planning to open their own night spots because of the success of other establishments. Gentlemen, join the club!

That night at MDC, the DJ fighters were **Bianca Desales, Gino Garcia, Paulo Icamania, Philip Bisnon** and **Jenna Genio**. They used their Motorola ROKR phone (yup, the same phone the folks at 2bU! are giving out to lucky readers) to blast five songs of their choice to the MDC (Motorola discopunk cats) partyphiliacs.

One guy played iconic David Bowie and Billy Idol hits while another played obscure tunes from Blonde, Young Punx, etc.

A welcome auditory treat was when the other DJ contestants played songs from Pinoy artists Pedicab and Updharmadown. Galing!

If I were given the chance to compete in that DJ competition, I would play Sharon Cuneta's "Mr. DJ"—in broken beat/discopunk!

That night, Bianca Desales emerged as DJ delight, making her the evening's discopunk queen.

Outerhope

My week ended with a trip to Mag:Net in Katipunan, where I witnessed the album launch of musical siblings **Mike** and **Mick Benedicto**—who call their group (with guitarist **Joon Guillen**) Outerhope. Their music is purely for "chillaxing," perfect for these times when everything seems too hectic.

Mick and Mike's dad, music producer **Manny Benedicto**, just passed away, so they dedicated their set to their dad's memory.

Their Ateneo buds went to Mag:Net in full support of the band's indie compilation. Check out www.outerhope.com, and to get a copy of their music, e-mail them at info@outerhope.com or orders@outerhope.com

Despite this season's rush, take some time out to make sure that you make those special people in your life feel loved. It can be as simple as dedicating a song, given them a hug, a kiss, a reassuring whisper, or a pat on the back.

Have a happy and peaceful Christmas!

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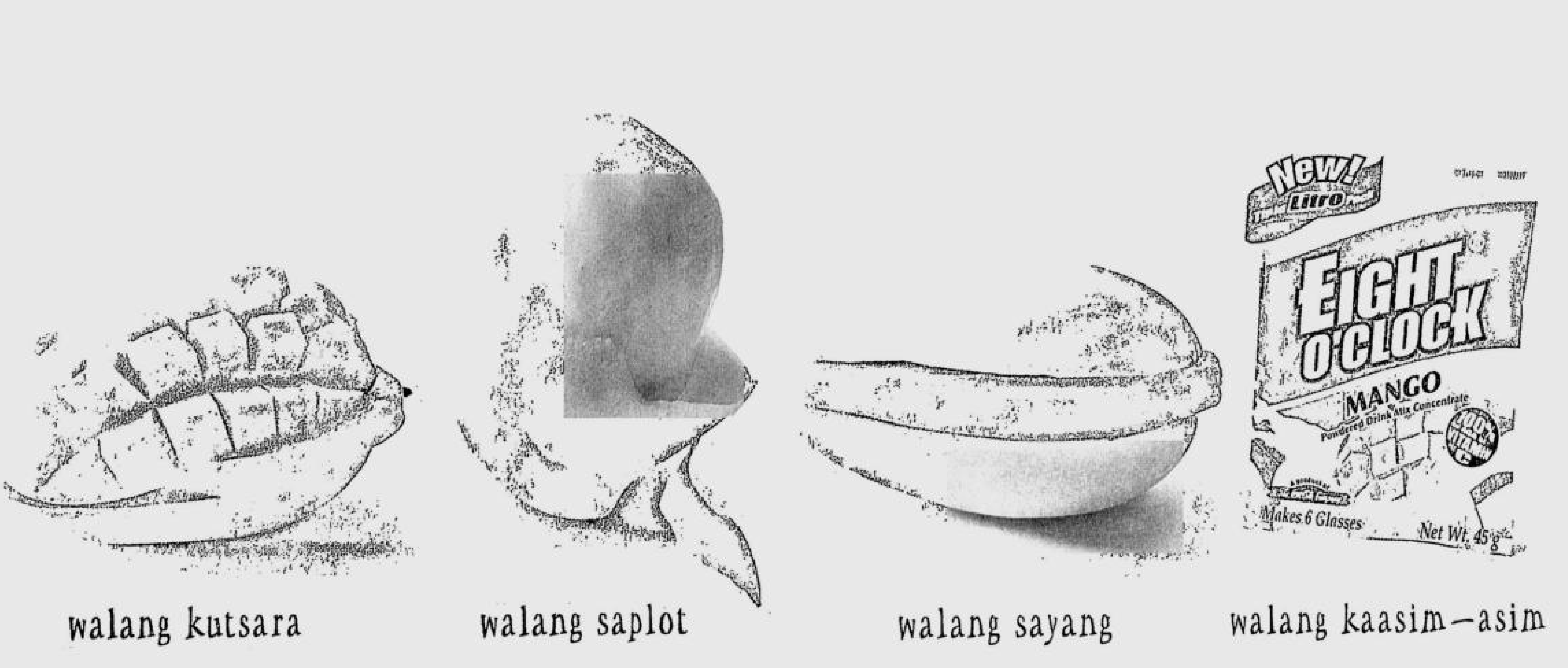

walang kutsara walang saplot walang sayang walang kaasim-asim

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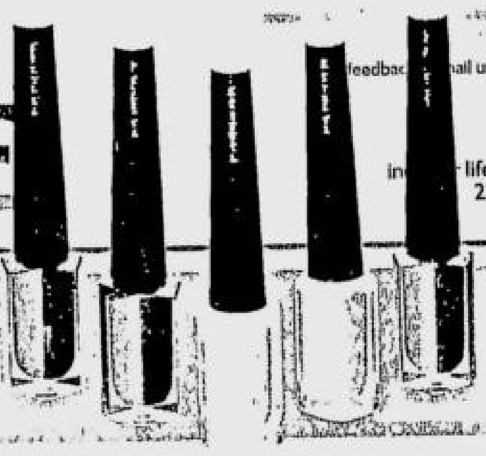
Makeup wonderland



SHISEIDO Diamond Tear liquid eyeliner

Lora Gabol

GLAMOROUS Diamond lips by Shiseido

WHO ELSE would dare challenge the already glittering Christmas season but you? And what better way to do it than with a little help from Shiseido's holiday offering?

For foolproof dazzle and shine, the Diamond Tear collection will definitely not disappoint.

How to wear it: With the collection's wide range of shades, all dripping in gorgeous glimmer from eyes to lips, there is plenty of room to experiment!

Keep focus on one feature (read: don't overdo the glitter!). For day, add some unexpected glamour with Diamond Tear Eyeliner. You can keep the line close to your lashes or wing it out at the

MAKEUP/ E4

> For foolproof dazzle and shine, Shiseido's Diamond Tear collection will definitely not disappoint

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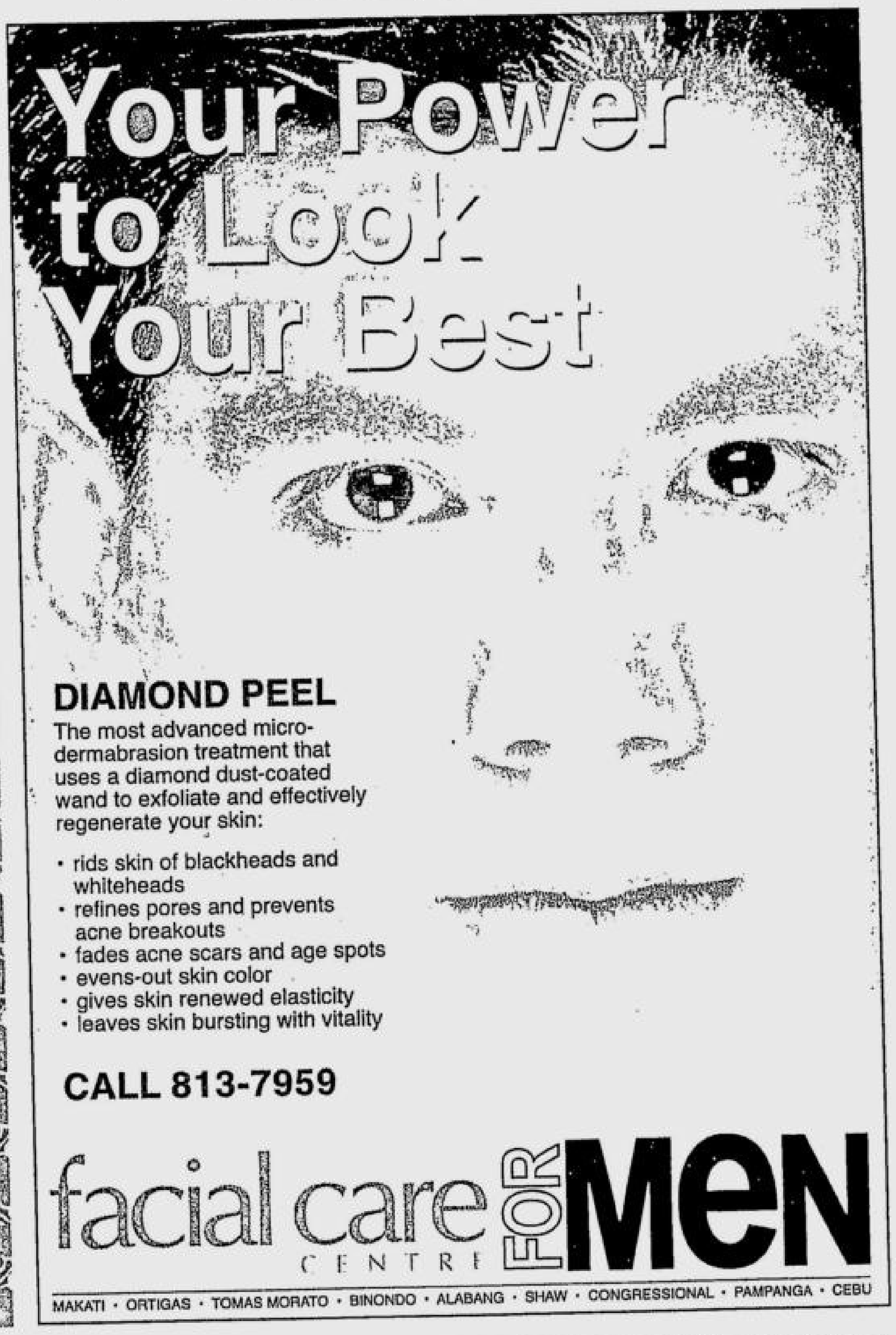

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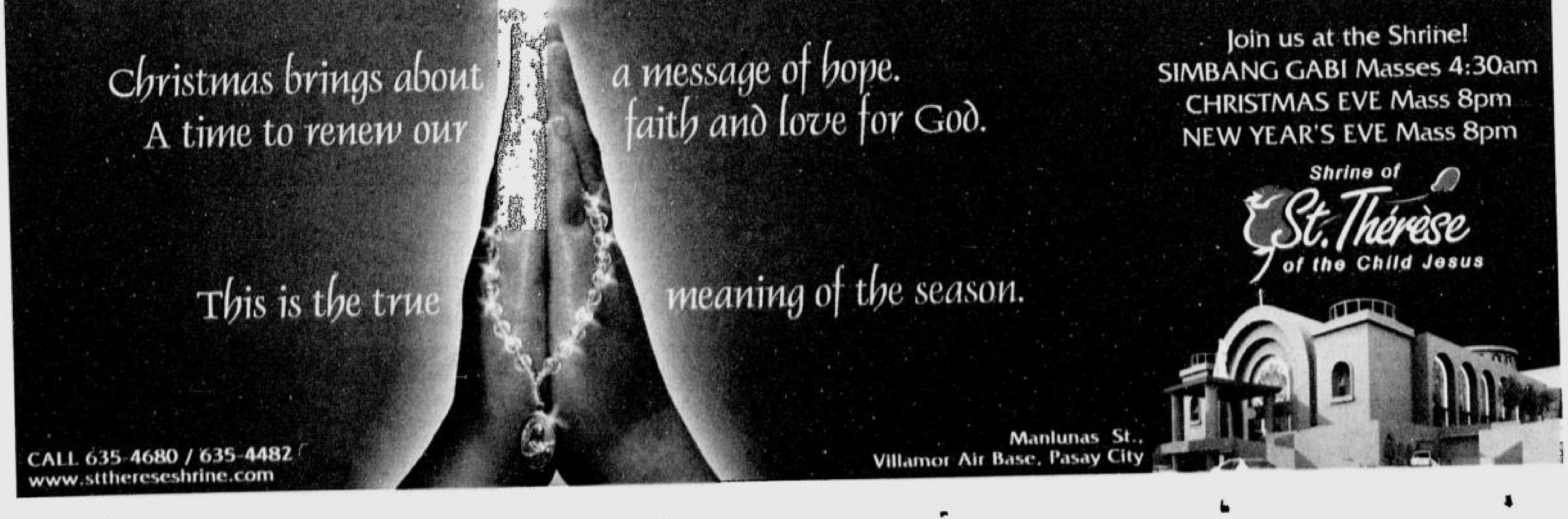

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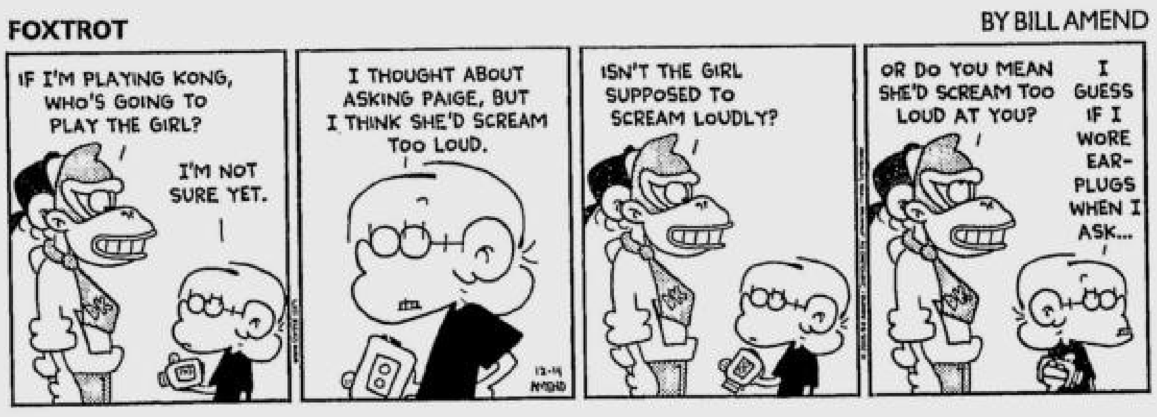
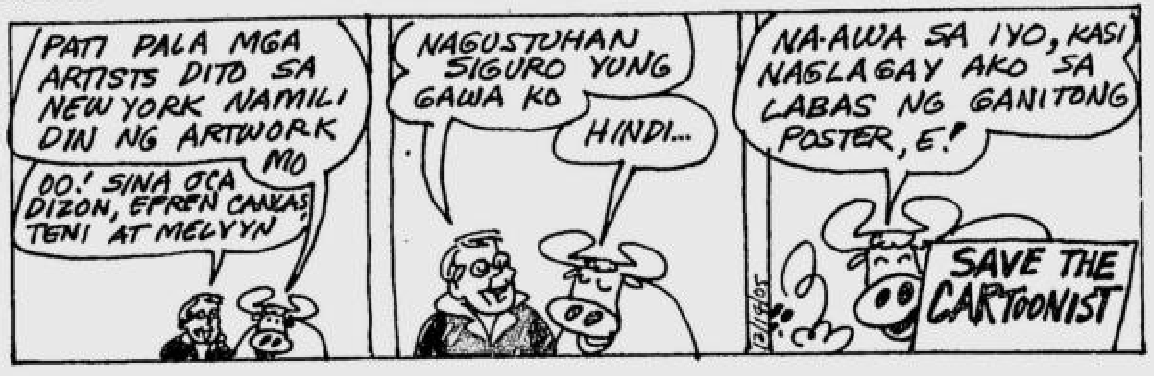
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


IF I'M PLAYING KONG, WHO'S GOING TO PLAY THE GIRL?
I'M NOT SURE YET.
I THOUGHT ABOUT ASKING PAIGE, BUT I THINK SHE'D SCREAM TOO LOUD.
ISN'T THE GIRL SUPPOSED TO SCREAM LOUDLY?
OR DO YOU MEAN SHE'D SCREAM TOO LOUD AT YOU?
I GUESS IF I WORE EARPLUGS WHEN I ASK...
12-14 AMEND

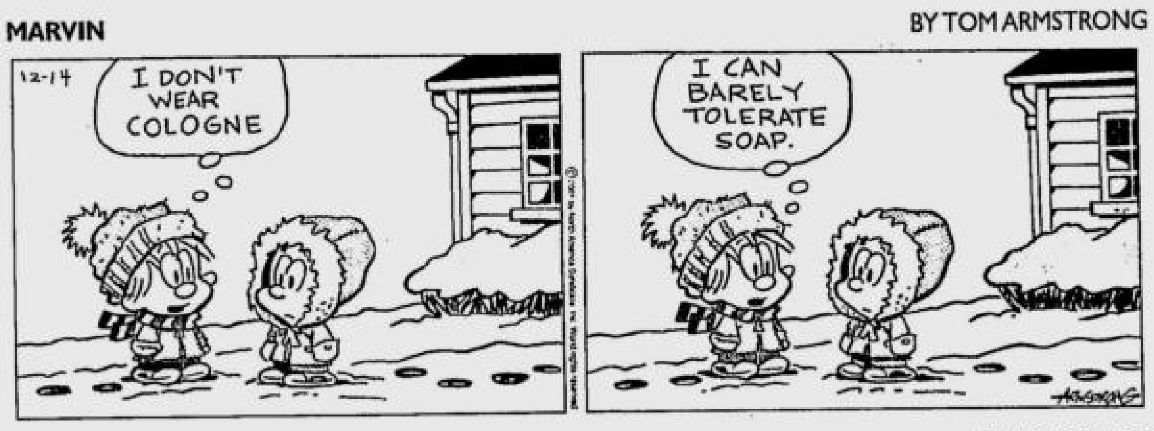
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PATI PALA MGA ARTISTS DITO SA NEW YORK NAMILI DIN NG ARTWORK MO
OO! SINA OCA DIZON, EFREN CANLAS, TENI AT MELVYN
NAGUSTUHAN SIGURO YUNG GAWA KO
HINDI...
NA-AWA SA IYO, KASI NAGLAGAY AKO SA LABAS NG GANITONG POSTER, E!
SAVE THE CARTOONIST
12/14/05

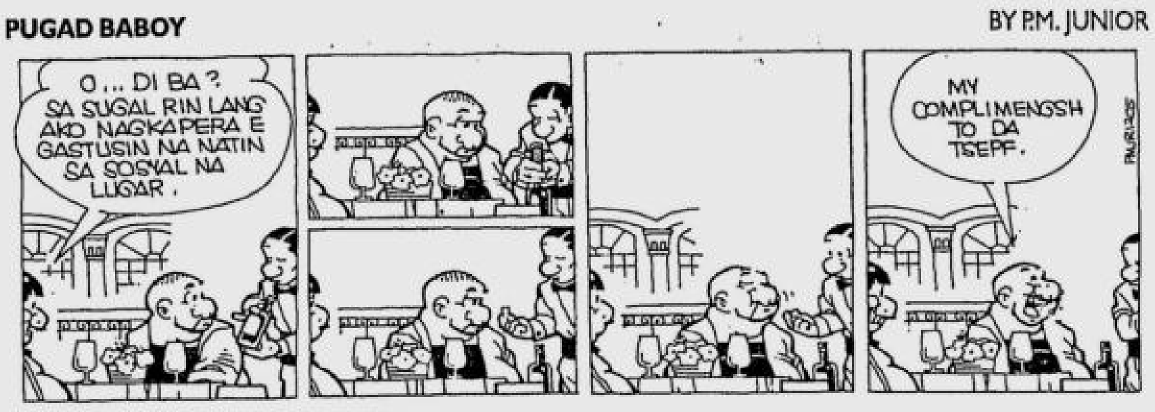
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


12-14
I DON'T WEAR COLOGNE
I CAN BARELY TOLERATE SOAP.
ARMSTRONG

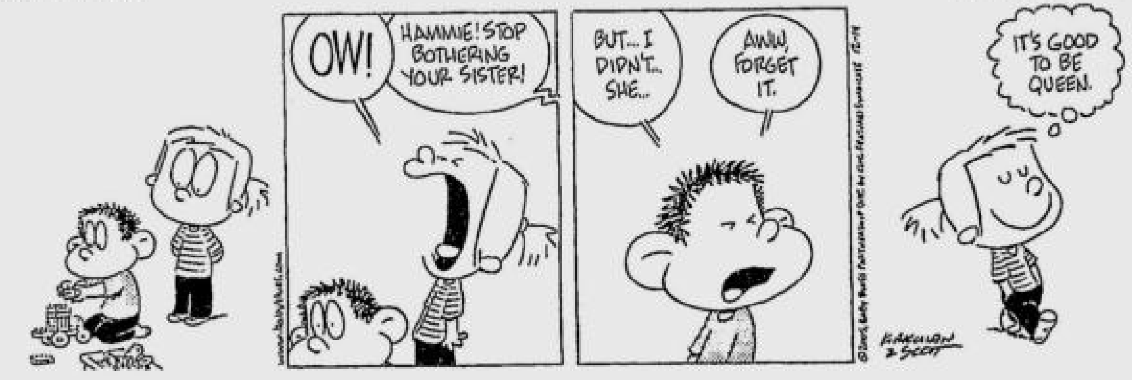
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


O... DI BA? SA SUGAL RIN LANG AKO NAGKAPERA E GASTUSIN NA NATIN SA SOSYAL NA LUGAR.
MY COMPLIMENGSH TO DA TSEPF.

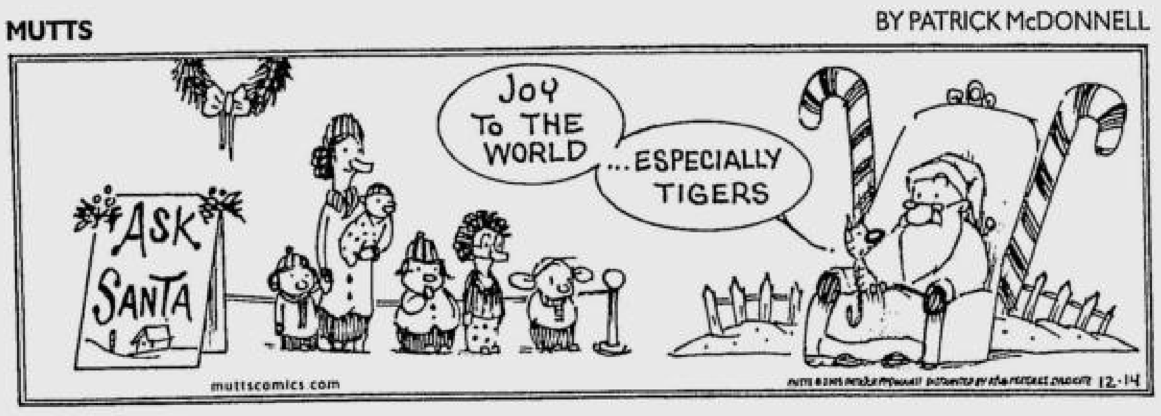
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


OW!
HAMMIE! STOP BOTHERING YOUR SISTER!
BUT... I DIDN'T... SHE...
AWW, FORGET IT.
IT'S GOOD TO BE QUEEN.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
12-14

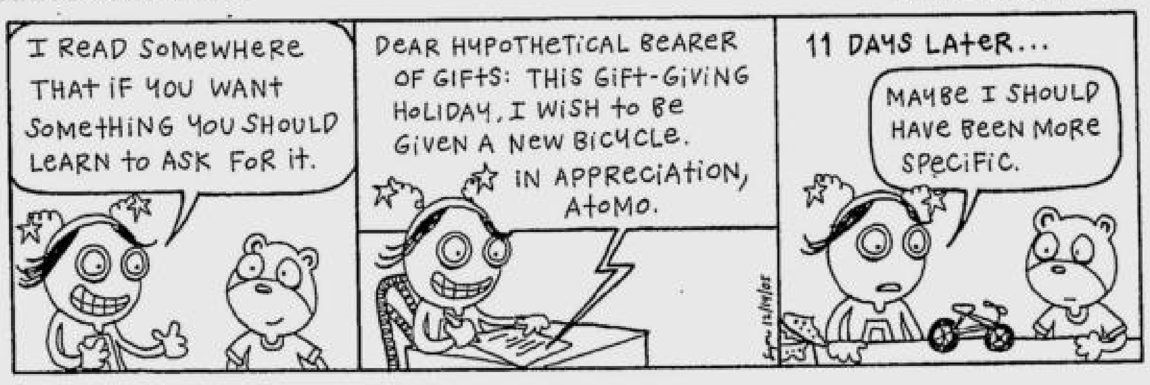
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


ASK SANTA
JOY TO THE WORLD
...ESPECIALLY TIGERS
muttscomics.com
12-14

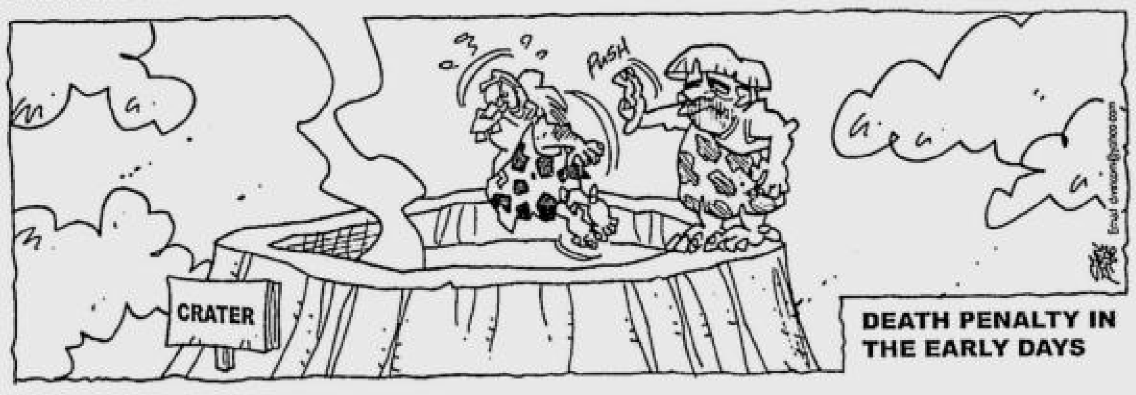
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I READ SOMEWHERE THAT IF YOU WANT SOMETHING YOU SHOULD LEARN TO ASK FOR IT.
DEAR HYPOTHETICAL BEARER OF GIFTS: THIS GIFT-GIVING HOLIDAY, I WISH TO BE GIVEN A NEW BICYCLE. IN APPRECIATION, ATOMO.
11 DAYS LATER...
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE SPECIFIC.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


PUSH
CRATER
DEATH PENALTY IN THE EARLY DAYS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Don't question that you're an original thinker. Furthermore, you're brave. You'll take an unpopular side if you believe in it. Some people think you're bizarre. More accurately, you're eccentric because you are marching to the beat of your own drummer. Increased solitude in the year ahead will allow you to learn something important.

Birthdate of: Charlie Rich, musician; Ted Raimi, actor; Patty Duke, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Each month, just before the Full Moon, our problems seem to intensify. But this must be an illusion, because right after the Full Moon, they diminish! Observe your worries to see if this happens.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might feel money pressures today, because tomorrow's Full Moon seems to focus on this area. Don't worry; later in the week things look completely different! (Go figure.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Tomorrow is the only Full Moon in your sign all year. That's why you feel some excited tension building up within you today. It's no big deal. Just go with the flow.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Since the Moon rules your sign, you definitely feel each Full Moon. Ignore feelings of self-doubt. Somebody's remarks confirm your worst suspicions about yourself. It's not true. (It's the Full Moon.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're concerned about whether a friend is happy with you. You want this person to like you. Because of this, you might do something special for this individual. (That's nice.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Discussions with parents and bosses are more significant than usual. That's because tomorrow's Full Moon brings something to a head now. Be patient with everyone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You have strong escapist feelings today. You want to get away. You want to be anywhere but where you are. You want adventure, and you want to learn something fascinating and new!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): The best way for you to maintain an easy give-and-take relationship with a close friend or partner is to appreciate his or her values. These values are not the same as yours! 'Nuff said.

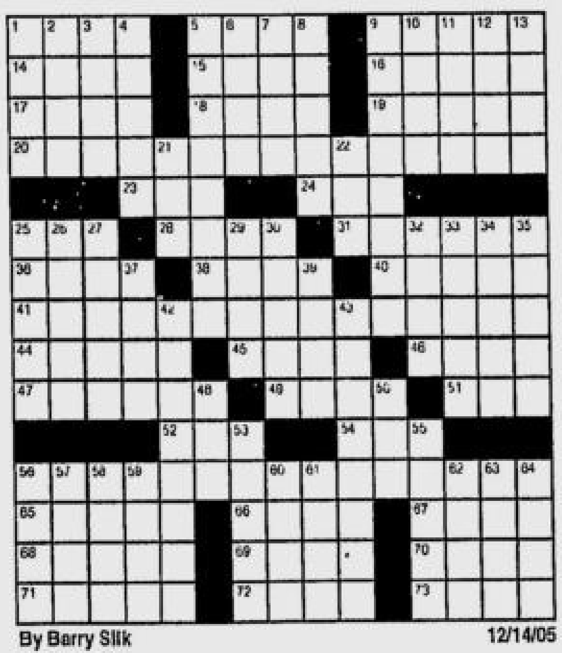
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Try to be diplomatic and patient with close friends and partners today. Tension before tomorrow's Full Moon creates stress in all your relationships. Chill out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be extra-patient with co-workers. There's a buildup of tension today because of tomorrow's Full Moon. This will disappear in a few days.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Don't worry about romantic relationships that seem to be going off the rails. This Full Moon confuses you. By next week things will look different.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Conversations with parents and family members might be stressful today because of the increasing tension as tomorrow's Full Moon builds up. Ignore this. Be loving and patient with everyone.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Barry Silk
McLean, VA

12/14/05

ACROSS
1 Swiss range
5 "__ brillig..."
9 Sir Rudolf and Dave
14 Ringlike earring
15 Botanical anchor
16 Florida city
17 Novelist Ferber
18 Writer Quindlen
19 Element 54
20 MO
23 Ultimate math degree?
24 Mythical bird
25 "Murder, __ Wrote"
28 Play divisions
31 Esprit de corps
36 Pretensions
38 La Scala highlight
40 Entertainer Blades
41 MO
44 Happen again
45 Entreaty
46 Sharpen
47 Person on a soapbox
49 Personal play space
51 Cincy athlete
52 Classic opener?
54 Pledge
56 MO
65 No socialite
66 Sch. with a Berkeley campus
67 Gumbo staple
68 Thunderstorm by-product
69 Hospital supplies
70 Jack Sprat's diet
71 Money owed
72 While lead-in
73 Boundary

DOWN
1 Throaty break-in
2 1969 CCR hit
3 Polliwog's place
4 Give rise to
5 Rubbish collector
6 Refuses
7 First-class
8 Brenda or Ringo
9 Ballgame record
10 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
11 Anna Sten movie
12 Language: suff.
13 Compos mentis
21 Schedule abbr.
22 __ de plume
25 Illac intro
26 Employer
27 Author Jong
29 Golf hazard
30 Foolish
32 Book after Judges
33 Loathe
34 Sierra __
35 Finished
37 Sooty matter
39 Offshore
42 Certain mine products
43 Express astonishment about
48 Call a game
50 Physician, familiarly
53 Practical
55 Undivided
56 Trudge
57 Seep
58 Patronizing one
59 Camp shelter
60 Cake decorator
61 Automobiles
62 Scratched out
63 Rugged rock
64 Citizen of Hollywood?

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

J	A	G	■	C	L	A	N	G	S	■	R	A	I	L
I	D	O	■	H	I	D	E	H	O	■	E	D	D	O
B	I	L	L	A	N	D	C	O	O	■	P	I	T	A
E	N	D	O	R	■	■	■	S	T	A	R	E	A	T
■	■	M	U	D	D	L	E	T	H	R	O	U	G	H
S	H	E	S	■	O	O	X	■	E	M	O	■	■	■
N	U	D	E	■	O	D	O	R	■	E	F	R	E	M
A	G	A	■	P	R	E	T	E	N	D	■	A	R	E
P	O	L	K	A	■	S	I	L	O	■	A	R	T	S
■	■	■	A	T	F	■	C	I	O	■	G	O	E	S
H	I	T	T	H	E	J	A	C	K	P	O	T	■	■
A	M	O	R	O	S	O	■	■	■	O	R	O	N	O
R	A	N	I	■	S	H	A	K	E	H	A	N	D	S
E	G	A	N	■	U	N	W	I	S	E	■	G	A	S
S	E	L	A	■	P	I	N	D	A	R	■	A	K	A

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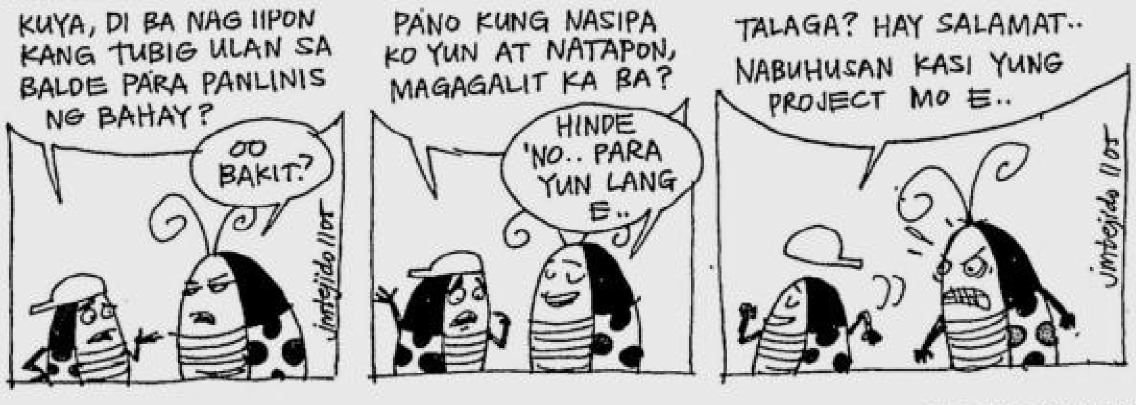
12/14/05

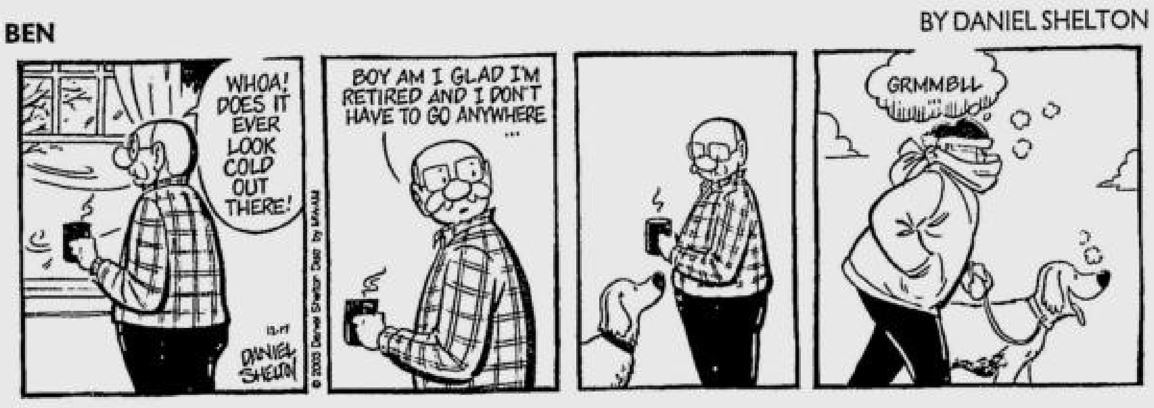
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KUYA, DI BA NAG IIPON KANG TUBIG ULAN SA BALDE PARA PANLINIS NG BAHAY?
OO BAKIT?
PANO KUNG NASIPA KO YUN AT NATAPON, MAGAGALIT KA BA?
HINDE 'NO.. PARA YUN LANG E..
TALAGA? HAY SALAMAT.. NABUHUSAN KASI YUNG PROJECT MO E..
jmtejido 11.05

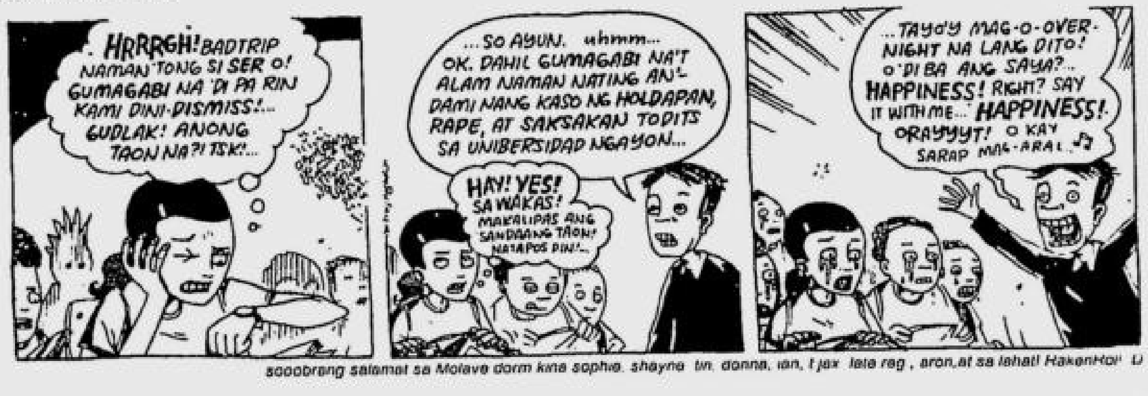
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHOA! DOES IT EVER LOOK COLD OUT THERE!
BOY AM I GLAD I'M RETIRED AND I DON'T HAVE TO GO ANYWHERE
...
GRMMBLL
DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE

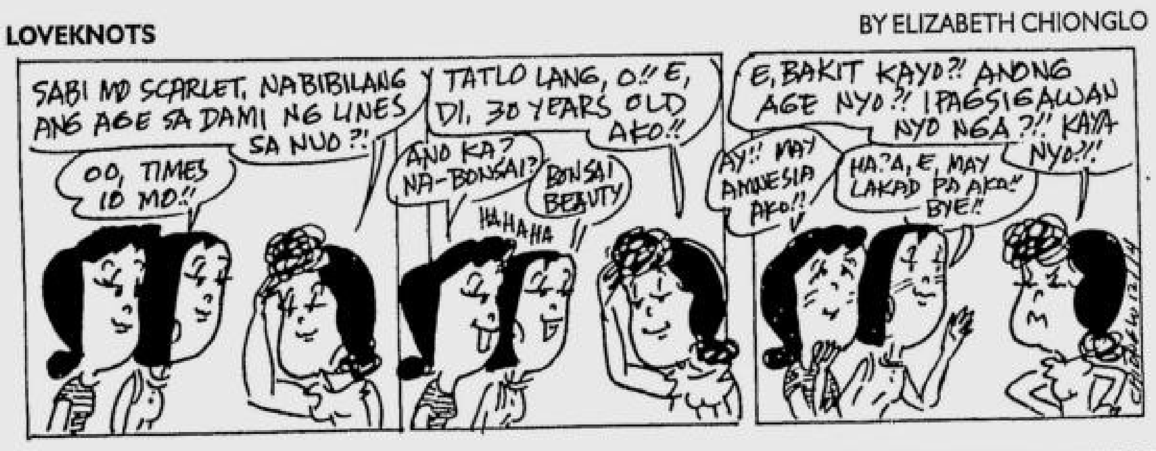
BY MANIX ABRERA


HRRRGH! BADTRIP NAMAN TONG SI SER O! GUMAGABI NA 'DI PA RIN KAMI DINI-DISMISS!.. GUDLAK! ANONG TAON NA?! TSK!..
...SO AYUN. uhmm... OK. DAHIL GUMAGABI NA'T ALAM NAMAN NATING AN-DAMI NANG KASO NG HOLDAPAN, RAPE, AT SAKSAKAN TODITS SA UNIBERSIDAD NGAYON...
HAY! YES! SA WAKAS! MAKALIPAS ANG SANDAANG TAON! NATAPOS DIN!..
...TAYO'Y MAG-O-OVER-NIGHT NA LANG DITO! O'DI BA ANG SAYA?.. HAPPINESS! RIGHT? SAY IT WITH ME... HAPPINESS! ORAYYYT! O KAY SARAP MAG-ARAL ♫

sooobrang salamat sa Molave dorm kina sophie, shayne tin, donna, ian, t jax lala reg, aron,at sa lahat! HakenHoi! U

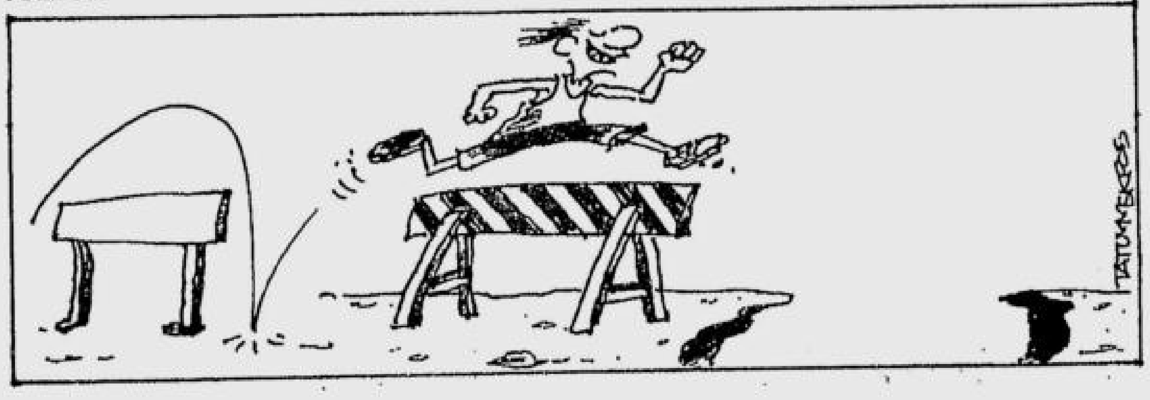
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SABI MO SCARLET, NABIBILANG ANG AGE SA DAMI NG LINES SA NUO?!
OO, TIMES 10 MO!!
TATLO LANG, O!! E, DI, 30 YEARS OLD AKO!!
ANO KA? NA-BONSAI?!
BONSAI BEAUTY
HAHAHA
E, BAKIT KAYO?! ANONG AGE NYO?! IPAGSIGAWAN NYO NGA?!! KAYA NYO?!!
AY!! MAY AMNESIA AKO!!
HA?A, E, MAY LAKAD PA AKO!! BYE!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



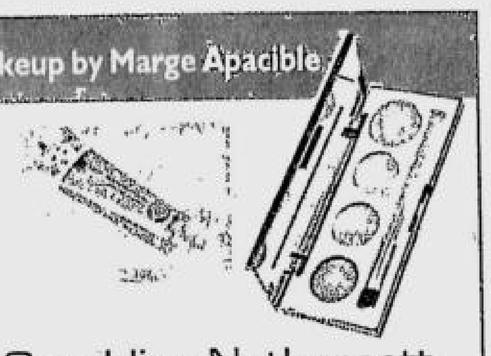
Merry makeup looks

Text by Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Sara Black and Ocs Alvarez

FOR ANY MAKEup brand, the holiday season is always the best time to go all-out glam and flamboyant. Forget subtle, forget subdued—holiday seasons are about celebrating in finery, and this year's selection is no exception.

Shu Uemura, Lancôme, Shiseido and The Body Shop demonstrate the season's trends on the winner and finalists of the recently concluded Seventeen Magazine Favorite Model Search.

The Body Shop — Makeup by Marge Apacible



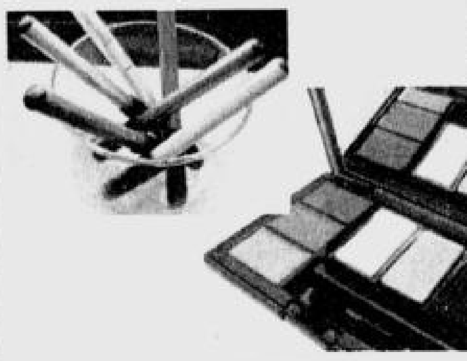
Geraldine Nethercott

Earth colors from the Eye and Cheek Brown palette (which contains cream, champagne, and taupe eye colors, as well as golden pink blush) were used for Geraldine's holiday look. Marge then blended colors from the Lip Palette Brown (which contains deep berry and peach colors) and topped it off with Plum Pudding lipgloss.

Shiseido — Makeup by Jessica Villapando and Marvin Recto

Esseline Raisa Ong

Marvin used Shiseido's Accentuating Color Pencils to emphasize Essie's eyes. After using the Silky Eye Shadow Quad in Light and Shadows (for the base), he used blue pencils to line her eyes, then highlighted her brow bones with gold and green. He then applied Peach Flush blush on her cheeks, lined her lips with red lipliner, and topped it off with Pink Twist lipgloss.

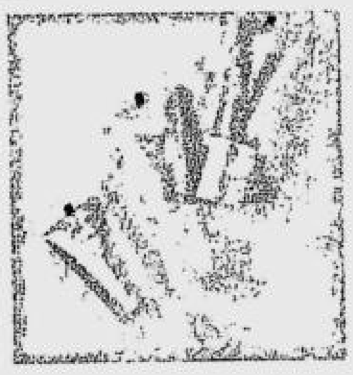


Shu Uemura Moondrops — Makeup by Xeng Zulueta

Camille Cruz

On Camille, the winner of the Seventeen Favorite Model Search, Xeng went for an avant-garde look by combining colors from both palettes of the Holiday 2005 Moondrops collection.

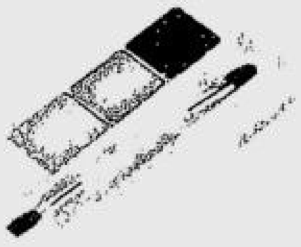
After prepping Camille's skin with foundation, Xeng blended shades of purple, blue, and iridescent yellow on Camille's eyes, making them look like a festive mask. She then applied Rouge 4 lipstick in 273 on Camille's upper lip, and shade 731 on the bottom. Blue false lashes completed the look.



Abbie Almasco

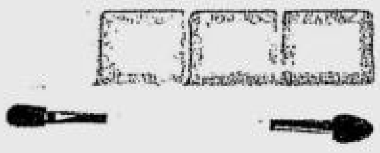
After smoothing on Water Perfect foundation on Abbie, Xeng blended iridescent and shimmery shades of purple from the Aurora Pearl palette on her eyelids. Then, after adding mascara and liner to Abbie's eyes, Xeng finished her look with Rouge 4 Crème in Pearly Pink, peach blush, and a light dusting of the iridescent eyeshadow from the palette on her cheeks.

"The light eyeshadow shades don't always have to be used as a base," said Xeng. "If you can get away with it, use them to highlight your face."



Claudine Villacorta

On dusky morena Claude, Xeng used the iridescent yellow and matte brown shades from the Aurora Pearl palette as a base on her eyes. To make Claude's catlike eyes really pop, she lined them with metallic blue and finished off with a generous coat of mascara. Xeng then used bright pink blush and Rouge 4 lipstick to emphasize Claude's naturally flawless skin.



Barkada treat!

2BU! AND JACK 'N JILL ARE TREATING readers to their dream destination in the Philippines via Cebu Pacific.

E-mail a photo of your best *barkada* moment with Jack 'n Jill products to contest2bU@inquirer.com.ph. Attach a photo caption and a short essay on how Jack 'n Jill products have been a part of your *barkada*.

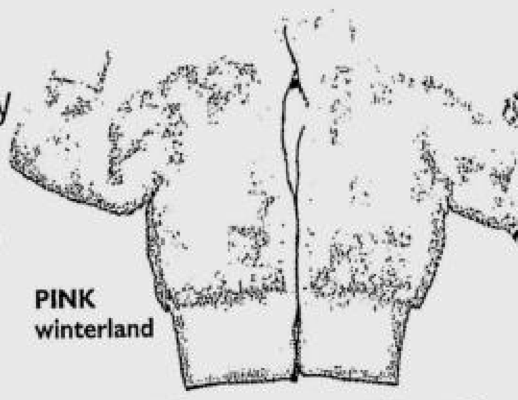
Products included in the promo are Chippy, Potato Chips, Taquitos, Spuds, Star Pops, Dynamite (melon and mint), Maxx Menthol Candy, Milky Knots, Berry Knots, X.O. Chocolate Shake Candy, and Magic Flakes.

Each entry should have the name of the sender, school/company address, age, e-mail address, contact number (landline and mobile) and the names of his/her friends included in the photo.

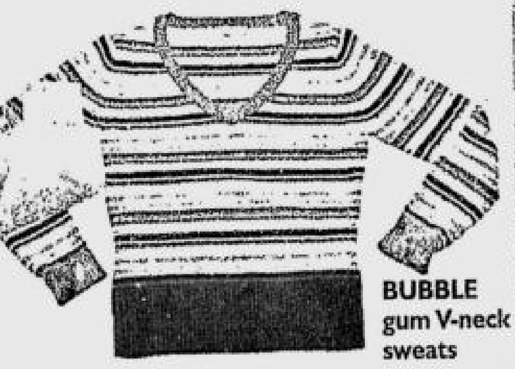
Five winners will receive Jack 'n Jill loot bags for his/her *barkada*. The sender of the best *barkada* photo will win round-trip tickets for the whole gang to any destination in the Philippines via Cebu Pacific. Two runners-up will receive T230 Sony Ericsson cell phones with P1,800 worth of Sure Load from Sun Cellular.

Cold busters

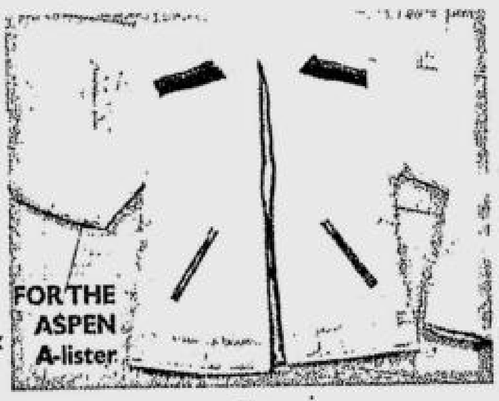
Stay comfortably warm with pieces that are hot and cool at the same time



PINK winterland



BUBBLE gum V-neck sweats



FOR THE ASPEN A-lister

By Pam Pastor

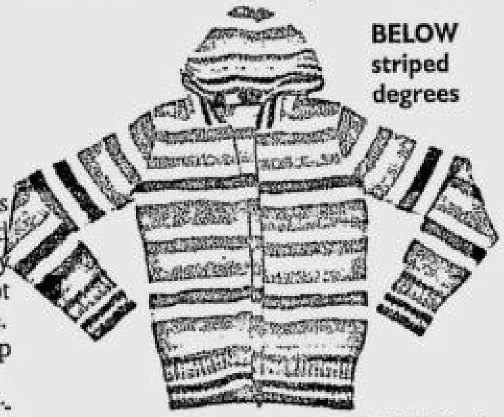
DECEMBER GIVES US many reasons to be thankful; and one of them is the short break from this tropical country's sweltering heat.

If you're looking to update your wardrobe for the cooler weeks headed our way, visit Terranova, our favorite stop for outerwear. Its shelves are packed with sweaters, jackets and coats which are both stylish and functional. Stay comfortably warm with pieces that are hot and cool at the same time.

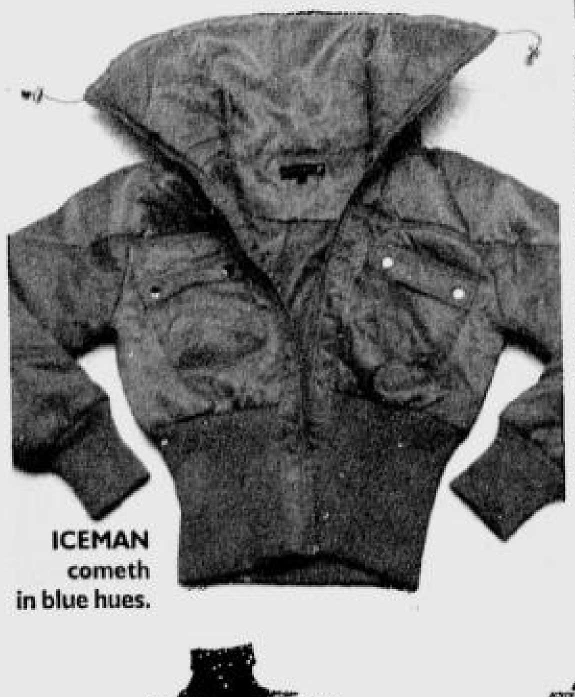
Here are our top picks:

Check out Terranova at Glorietta 4 and at Robinsons Galleria.

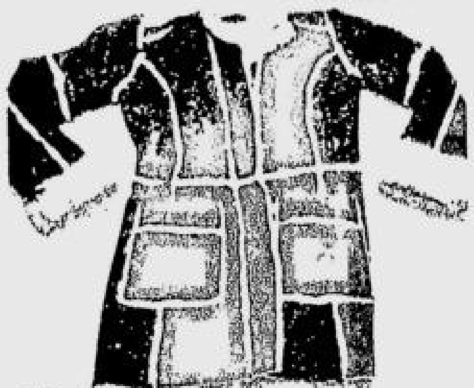
Do you want The Fashion Freaks to visit your store or check out your wares? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com



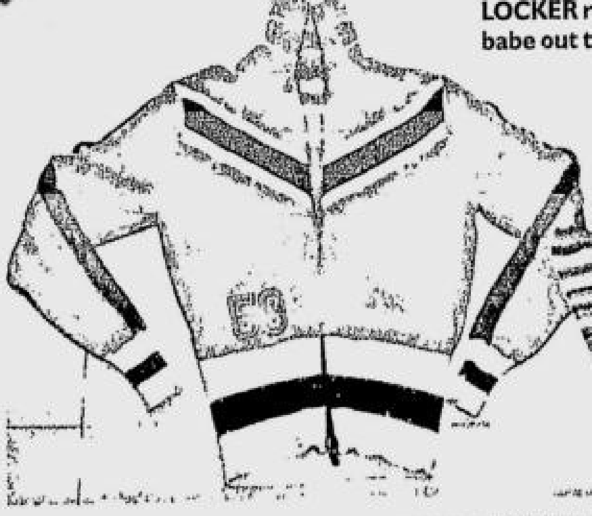
BELOW striped degrees



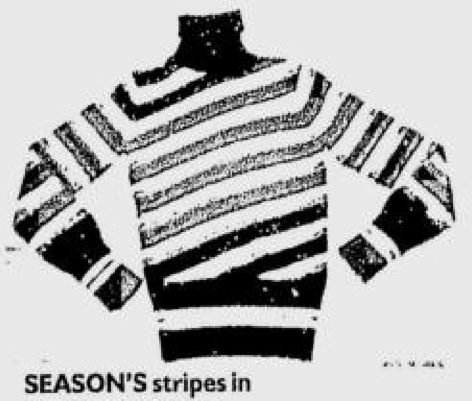
ICEMAN cometh in blue hues.



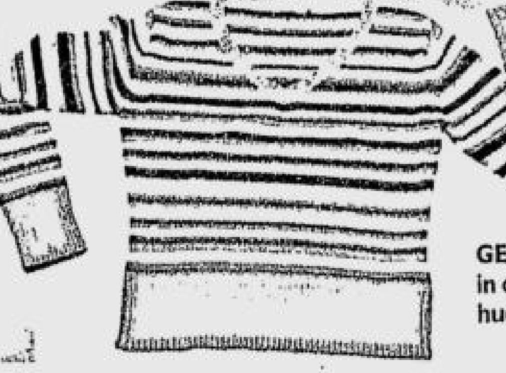
WILLY Wonka would love this.



LOCKER room babe out to chill.



SEASON'S stripes in tutti-frutti colors



GET WARM in cheerleader hues.

GlobeQUEST TouchPoint: Enabling Multi-Channel Solutions

Due to the rapid advancements in technology, bank customers have become more demanding and impatient than ever. They expect banks to provide services that are conveniently available anytime and anywhere.

As a result, the banking sector suddenly finds itself obligated to not just provide competitive products to customers, but speedy and accurate services as well. Self-service transactions, collectively known as e-banking are now made possible through the Internet, ATM machines, landline and mobile phones, POS terminals, kiosks, and call centers.

This development pushed GlobeQUEST, the corporate arm of Innove Communications, Inc., to expand its service lines and come up with a complete solution that will address the e-banking needs of the banking industry. Thus, the creation of a GlobeQUEST TouchPoint.

GlobeQUEST TouchPoint is a solution that provides the interface to a fully managed and hosted e-Banking middleware. It enables banks to conveniently provide services to their clientele through multiple and integrated delivery channels, thereby enhancing end-customer experience and improving operational efficiency.

Through this solution, banks are enabled to offer Internet banking, Mobile banking, and Phone banking without the need for typical start up expenses, plus it gives them a faster time to market the service. The delivery channels supported are: Internet (Broadband, WiFi, dial-up), SMS, WAP, GPRS, and Phone (via an Integrated Voice Response System).

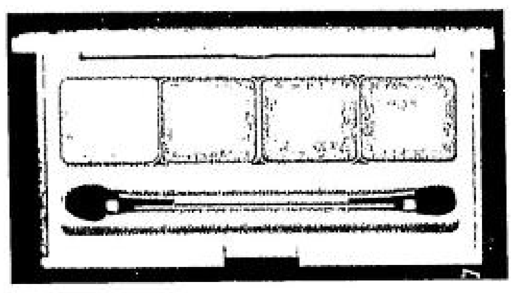
GlobeQUEST TouchPoint is an end-to-end service that allows banks to stay at pace with the trends and keep customers happy by giving them round the clock access to their accounts.

advt.

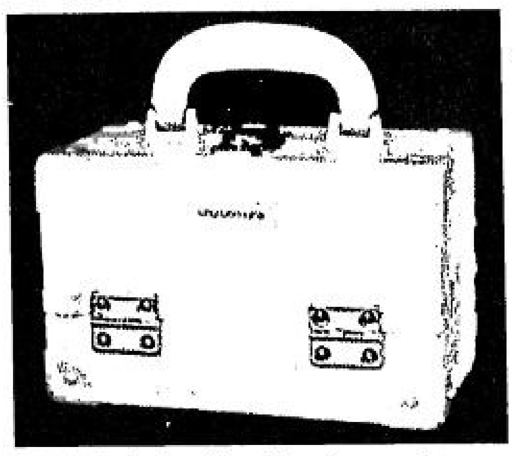
Makeup wonderland

From page E1

ROUGE Crème 338



SHU Uemura's Aurora Pearl eye shadow palette



SHU'S limited-edition Moondrops makeup box

SHISEIDO Diamond Tear lip gloss

edges to make eyes look wider and bolder. I love it in Aurora Peal, a clear, iridescent shade that changes color with every angle.

For evening, you just have to play up your pout. I love Diamond Tear Gloss in its genius packaging. You can easily swipe on to your heart's content, without wasting the product!

Try Million Carat Pink with smoky eyes, or Diamond Tear Red for lips that just beg to be kissed under the mistletoe—or not.

In your kit, now: Stock up on my personal fave, Diamond Tear Eyeliner. I'm not much of a liquid eyeliner fan with my lack of application "talent," but this one's a breeze to apply.

For the classy-edgy fashionista

Shu Uemura Moondrops—I always look forward to Shu Uemura's holiday collection every year. The opulence, the inventiveness always leave me breathless with anticipation.

From last year's Oriental red-and-gold, Shu's Holiday 2005 collection goes ethereal with colors and finishes that easily rival the brightest moonbeam.

How to wear it: On the more feminine side? Work your look around the Color Palette in Aurora Pearl, packed with four limited edition ice-cream shades in the pink-purple family. Wear them alone, or blended in together for a myriad of possibilities that instantly shift the spotlight to your eyes.

If you're bolder and more daring with color, this gorgeous palette (and with that, I also mean the palette case) also comes in Aqua Pearl, delish blue-greens with an earthy brown thrown in for contrast. I personally use Shu shadows as colored liner (just use a damp liner brush) because it stays budge-proof until the party's over, so try this option out for a more subtle day look.

As for your smoocher, Rouge Crème is really all you need for the smoothest lips ever. I'd have to say that I am currently addicted to this cooling lippie. From someone who keeps her lips bare 99.9-percent of the time, that should mean something. The nude-pink of 338 will suit all skin tones, so this one's a sure winner.

In your kit, now: Pick your fave palette for your collection—you're bound to use it year-round, and beyond. This is one worthy splurge. For a wonderful gift idea, grab the Sweet Lip Gloss kit that has three juicy glosses you can split among three of your buds. Or keep all for yourself.

Now, if you're the serious makeup junkie, better save up for the oh-so-covetable White Makeup Box. It's the best place to keep your serious makeup stash in.

For the understated glamour puss

Bobbi Brown Winter White—I say understated because this collection is streamlined to offer you the basics you need for a smashingly sexy look without much effort, which is the point of real glamour, right?

Mimicking the mood set by fiery mistletoe and shiny tinsel, the focus is on strategic shine and a killer mouth.

How to wear it: First, get yourself the one thing you'll need in your purse to be prepared to party all throughout December: the Sexy Glamour Palette.

This one will make prettifying a no-brainer. Just apply the silver-gray Pewter Shimmer Wash Eye Shadow all over, then follow up with the silver-white Glacier Shimmer Wash Eye Shadow on the corners of your eyes, brow bones, and even the tops of your cheekbones for interesting highlights.

Add a few coats of mascara and some pink on your cheeks to warm them up. And now, for the coup de grace: Paint your lips with the wine-red Cassis Lip Color using the mini brush included in the palette. This is the best way to achieve a dressed-up pucker.

If you want to just punch up your lips with a bit of color, pat on a little of this creamy lippie with your fingers and blend. It's the freshest no-makeup lips you can achieve in less than three seconds.

In your kit, now: Aside from this stocked-up palette, you'd want the limited-edition lip gloss kit with seven of your fave Bobbi lippies, all in one package. The Eye Lights cream shadow palette is a collection of four eye colors that can be used alone, as a base for richer eye looks, or as a highlighter—very versatile!

Also check out Bobbi Brown's über-stylish chocolate croc leather makeup kits. (Or better yet, ask Santa to send you one!)

Bobbi Brown at Rustan's Makati; Shu Uemura at Rustans Makati and Shangri-La Plaza; Shiseido at Glorietta 3 and Rockwell Power Plant.

E-mail the author at lora_gahol@yahoo.com or lgahol@pldtvibe.net

2BU!
YEARENDER SURVEY

Vote for the best and worst of 2005

WHO WILL BE THE BIG winners of 2005?

We want you to be the judge again. Tell us who you think deserve to be hailed the Best and Worst of 2005 under the following categories:

Music: band, song, singer, radio station, radio DJ, music video, concert

Film: movie, movie theater, actor, actress

Fashion: male model, female model, fashion designer, brand, shop, trend, accessory, fashion icon

Health and beauty: beauty product, spa, salon, hairstyle, fitness regimen

Literature: book, writer, magazine

Food: restaurant, dish, fast food

Sports: athlete, UAAP team, NCAA team

Television: commercial, TV show, TV actress, TV actor, VJ, music channel

Technology: website, gadget, game

Send your answers to 2bU! Best and Worst of 2005 Poll, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague St., Makati; or e-mail contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph. Please have your answers in by 12 nn on Dec. 25.

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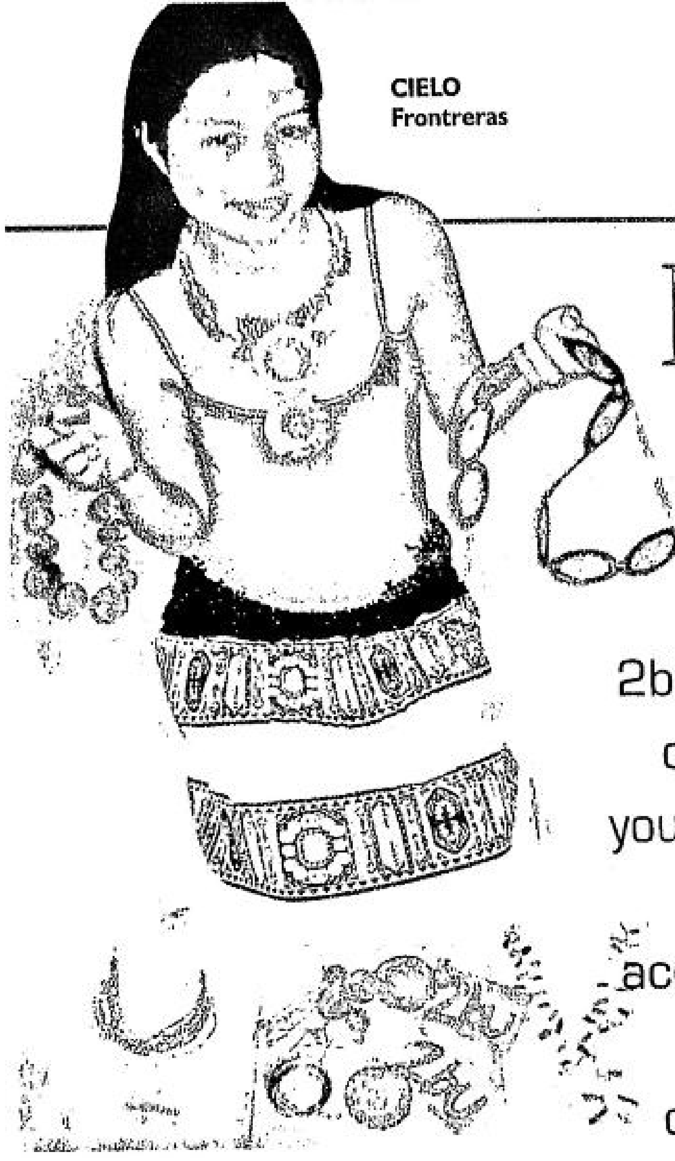

CIELO
Frontreras

New school of design

By Pam Pastor

2bU! asked four of our favorite young designers to create accessories out of school and office supplies

THE TRUE TEST OF creativity is when you can create beautiful, extraordinary things out of ordinary, everyday things.

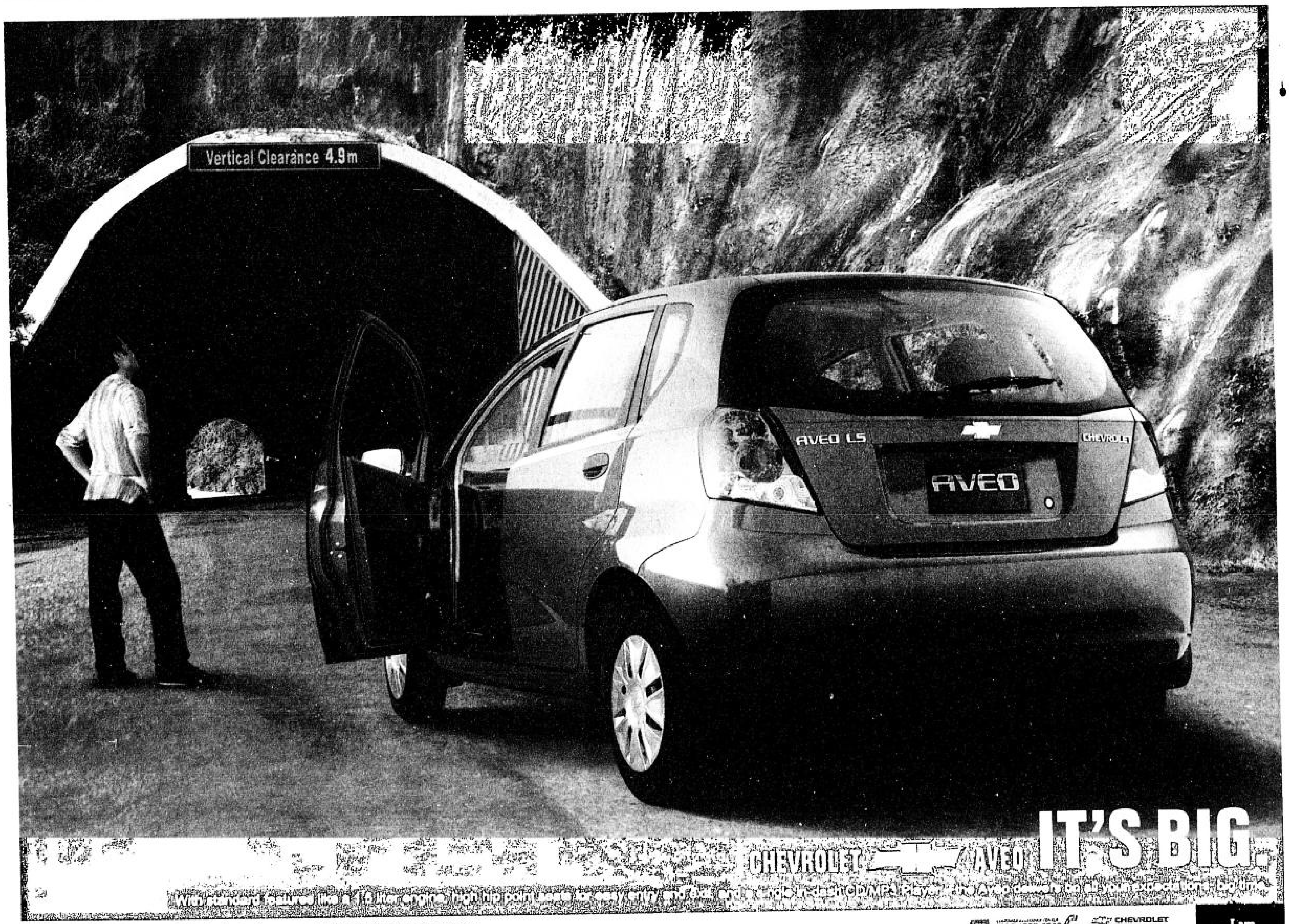
To inspire you to push your creativity even further, we gave four of our favorite young designers a challenge.

Arming them with National Bookstore gift certificates and Canon Digital Ixus I cameras so they could document their artsy adventure, we asked Happy David, Cielo Fontreras, Irene Pineda and Kate Torralba to create accessories out of school and office supplies. Here are what they came up with.

KATE
Torralba

HAPPY
David

IRENE
Pineda



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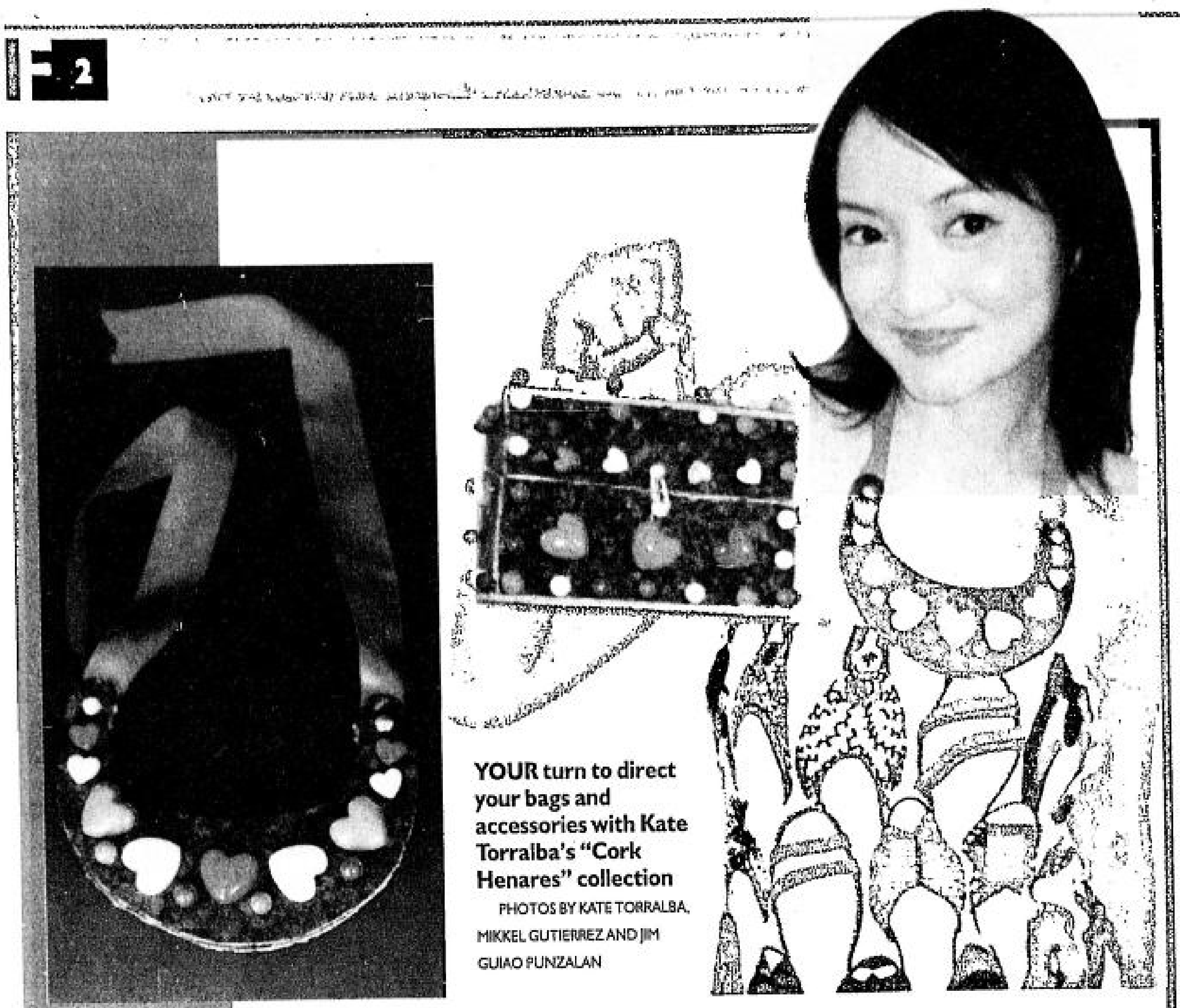


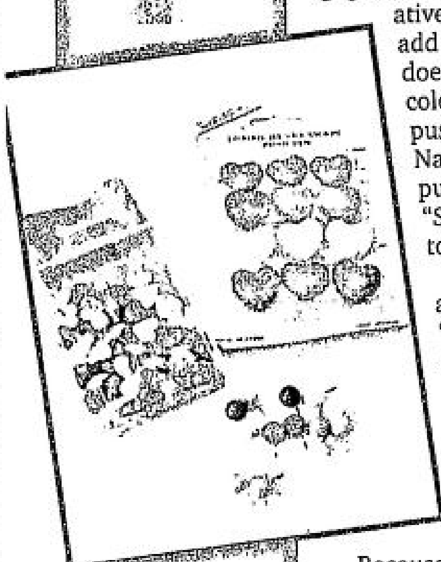
YOUR turn to direct your bags and accessories with Kate Torralba's "Cork Henares" collection

PHOTOS BY KATE TORRALBA, MIKKEL GUTIERREZ AND JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Kate Torralba

SUPER AWARDEE AND the poster girl of the slasher generation Kate Torralba named her handbag and neckpiece set Cork Henares. She said, "Thanks to Quark for being a good sport—now the bag has a cool name!"

Kate was inspired by vintage trunk luggage, Quark Henares ("The bag's very creative namesake who never fails to add humor into everything that he does. We love Quark!"), the bright colors and kitschy shapes of the push pins and paper clips she saw at National Bookstore and the funky purple Canon Ixus I they used. "Sadly," Kate said, "It was not for us to keep."



She describes her cork handbag as "cute and quirky." Kate said: "This is the only handbag that will allow you to post reminders, silly love messages or your favorite 1x1 photos! And if you get totally sick of the entire thing, use it as a decorative recipe box or index card holder—that's what the wooden box was originally for, anyway."

Because Kate hates seeing materials go to waste, she also created a neckpiece with the leftover cork and push pins.

Kate used the following materials: Manila paper, pencil, wooden box, cork board, assorted push pins, paper clips, round-head paper fasteners, gift wrapping paper, colored nylon string (the ones used to make those plastic bead bracelets), rugby, glue sticks and ribbon (one inch). She also used a cutter, a cutting mat, an electric drill and glue gun.

Kate details the step-by-step process:

1. Trace the base, top and sides of the box onto Manila paper and cut out patterns for each part. Also make patterns for the inside—you'll need these for cutting out the bag lining.

2. Use the patterns to cut out pieces from the cork board. Use a cutter and cutting pad for ease.

3. Use rugby adhesive to fasten each cork piece onto the corresponding parts of the wooden box (including the base). Make sure that you cut out parts of the cork to accommodate the metal hinges at the back so that you won't have any trouble opening the lid.

4. Leave for at least 30 minutes to allow the rugby to set.

5. Use a ruler and pencil or crayon to mark the points where you want the bag handle and lock to be attached. You will be drilling holes onto these points.

6. Link some paper clips together to form a makeshift bag handle. Make three rows that would be long enough to accommodate your wrist when fastened onto the box.

7. Using a separate paper clip, bend it into a narrow U-shape and "thread" it through the hole of the lid from the inside, now forming an "eye." Now slip the ends of your makeshift bag handle (all three clips) through the "eye" and fasten by twisting the ends of the U-shaped clip underneath the lid. Spread and flatten its ends against the surface. This is necessary so that the ends won't protrude against the lining of the lid (to be added later). Do the same for the opposite hole.

8. Cut the colored nylon string into a three- or four-inch length.

9. Wrap the end of colored nylon string around the hinges of one round head metal fastener and make a double knot to fasten. The knotted string should sit tightly against the underside of the fastener's head.

10. Insert the round-head paper fastener into the upper hole intended for the bag lock. Make sure that the string stays outside of the hole. Leave around 1 mm of the fastener's length on the outside, enough space for the string to stay in place. Spread and flatten the hinges of the fastener on the underside of the lid to keep it from moving.

11. Attach the other fastener to the opposite end, again leaving allowance for the string. You have now created your makeshift bag lock, which is similar to the ones you find on those string-fastened messenger envelopes.

12. Now use your pattern pieces to cut out the lining for the box from colorful gift wrapping paper. You may just use your glue gun to attach the lining.

13. The hard parts are over! Time to embellish your cork bag with your colorful push pins. You can create a border for that riveted look, make an interesting pattern, or go abstract and completely nuts. This is one happy handbag!

For the neckpiece

1. Cut out a pattern for the neckpiece. A semi-U shape is ideal.

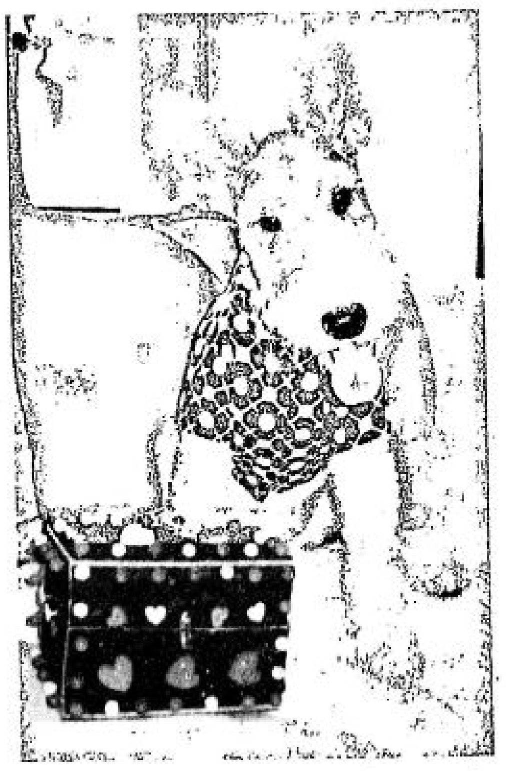
2. Using the pattern, cut out two pieces of cork—you will be using two layers to that the ends of the push pins don't go through the bottom and injure you.

3. Cut two pieces of ribbon for the neck strap. Attach the bottom ends of each to 1st layer of cork using a glue gun.

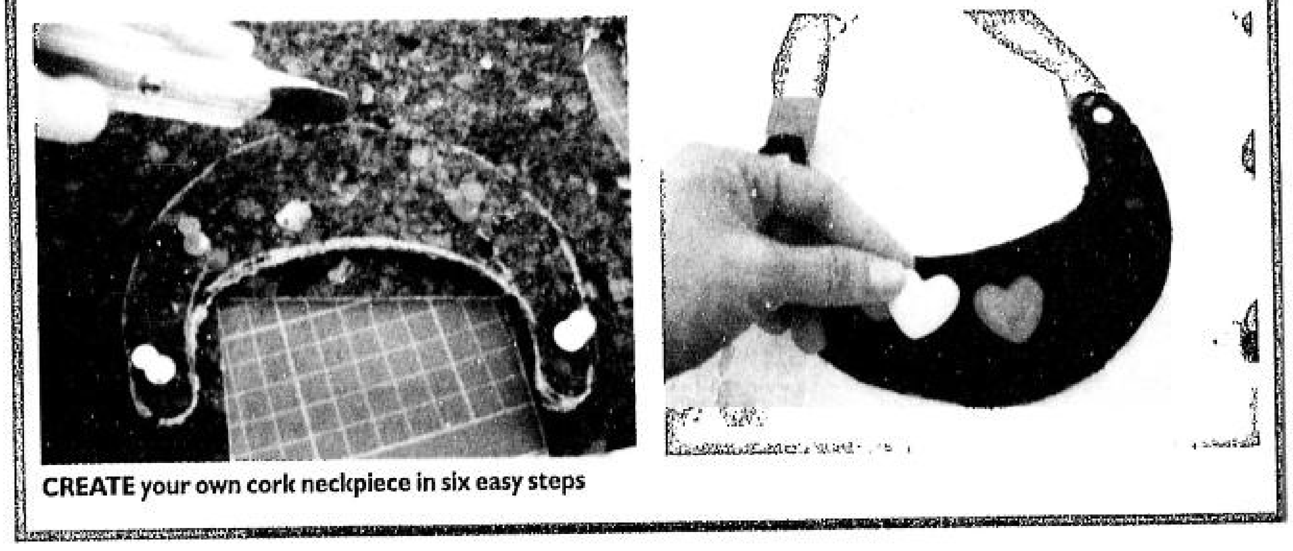
4. Now glue the 2nd layer of cork onto the first and "sandwich" the ribbon ends and fasten. Add the round head paper fasteners to make the grip even more secure.

5. Embellish your neckpiece with push pins as you please.

6. Try it on! Tie the ribbon ends around your neck and knot.

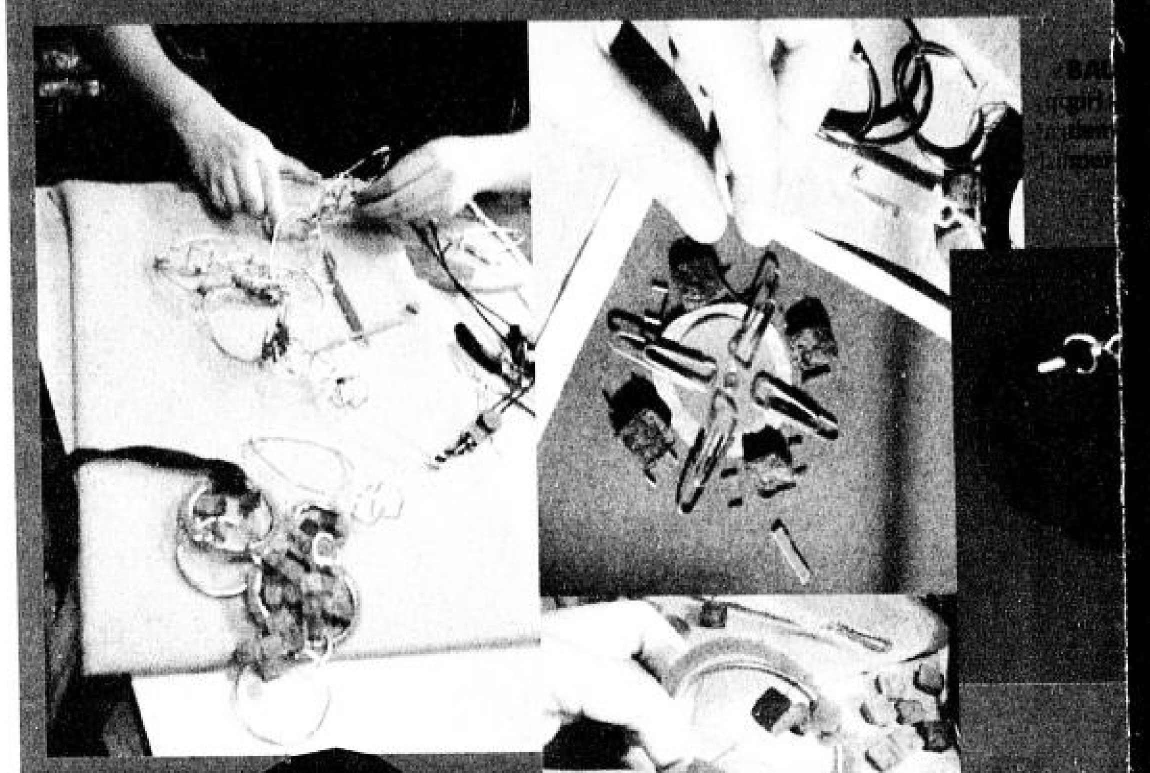


EVEN Kate's designer dog loves her creation.



CREATE your own cork neckpiece in six easy steps

New school



Happy Da

HAPPY DAVID, THE CREATIVE genius behind Get Happy, made two necklaces and a pin. The first necklace, which she calls Hanger On, was inspired by Matisse sketches and hanging mobiles. She used brass prongs, purple paper clips, a black ID holder, purple wire from the scrapbooking section, purple clamps and a purple ID clip. She says Swarovski crystals can also be used to add shine and glam for the holidays.

How to make your own Hanger On:

1. Twist and connect the brass prongs to create your desired shape/form for necklace. Anything goes. No rules here.

2. Secure in place with purple wire.

PLASTIC FANTASTIC. Irene Pineda proves you can wear more than Tupperware.

PHOTOS BY IRENE PINEDA, ROGER CARPIO AND RODEL ROTONI

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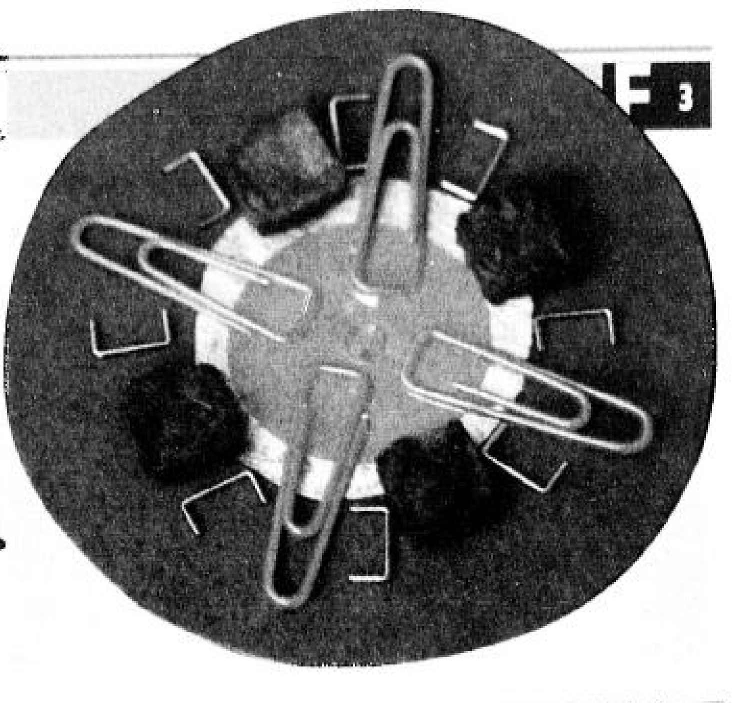

BLES, bangles and beads make every Happy girl. Here, Happy David onstrates how you can make yourself [illegible] than your scrapbook.

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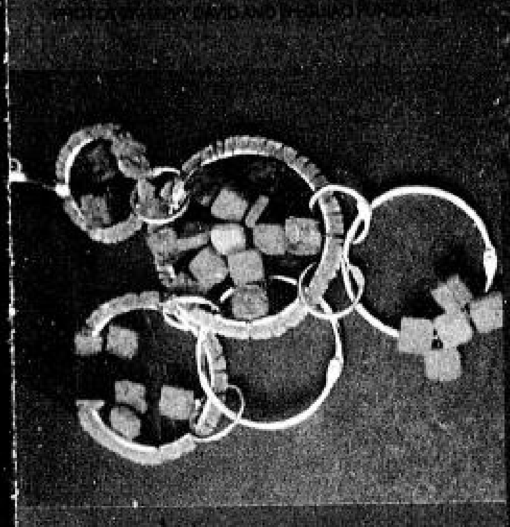

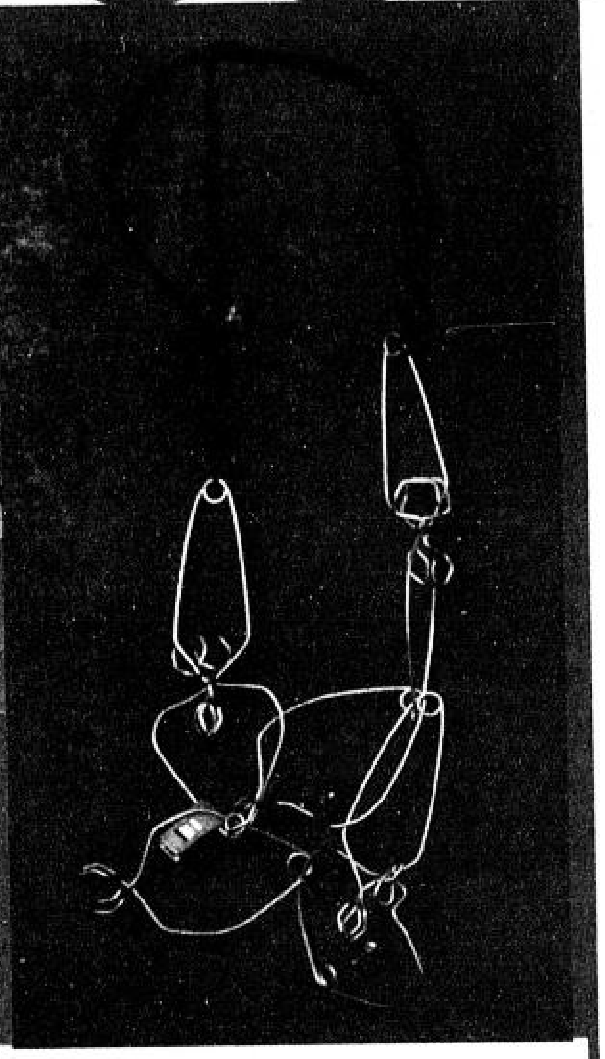

vid

3. Add paper clamp, ID clip and twisted paper-
ps if you wish to insert beads through them to
d that sparkle. Sprinkle them throughout your
cklace as you desire.
4. Attach an ID holder to tips of your necklace
d *voila*, you have a neckline.

Her second necklace, which is called Forget Me
t, was inspired by mobiles, dreamcatchers and
tional Bookstore supplies. Happy used binder
gs in different sizes, papier mâché cubes from
scrapbooking section, a black ID holder, pur-
fuzz and purple wire from scrapbooking sec-
n.

How to make your own Forget Me Not:
1. Outline bigger binder rings with purple fuzz.
2. Secure with copper wire and twist them back
d forth to create a webby canvas.
3. Puncture the papier mâché cubes with a safe-
pin or needle. Insert papier mâché cubes as you
along to create a design for center area.
4. Mix and connect with plain binder rings.

Electronica, lines and the color purple inspired Happy to make the pin. Using purple felt, a circular pattern cutout from Chalk magazine, paper clips, staple wires, papier mâché cubes, glue, epoxy, round sticker tags and rhinestones from the scrapbooking section, Happy made her own pin. You can make your own, too. Just keep some of her tips in mind.

"Get inspired before going to National Bookstore. Challenge yourself with the materials. There's no wastage. Even if you don't end up using what you bought, you'll eventually find a use for it in a later design or even your school and office. Have fun!"

Check out Get Happy at Rustan's U, Mag:Net Plus, Shubizz, The Store With No Name, !shq Astoria Plaza, Chimes in Davao City, Spruce in Cagayan De Oro or visit www.gethappyonline.com

Irene Pineda

IRENE PINEDA, THE DESIGN maven behind Irene's Closet, says that three small colored plastic scissors for kids caught her attention as she was going around National Bookstore. That's what jumpstarted her design.

In making your own accessories, consider her tips:

1. Be creative, try to experiment.
2. When sticking materials together, be sure to read labels of materials so you may use the proper adhesives.
3. Consider the weight of your materials. Don't make it too heavy or too light. Be sure that your necklace has depth and structure.
4. Have a color motif in mind. Mixing colors is very critical in designing accessories. Some colors do not necessarily have to match.
5. Also, consider the texture of your materials. Have the right shine, roughness and/or smoothness.
6. And most of all—this is the most important tip—enjoy and have fun in creating your own accessories. Be unique!

Irene made The Super Necklace out of plastic folders, plastic scissors, rubber bands, ring binders, yarn, foam, Christmas ornaments, plastic letters with magnets, small pouch, scotch tape and ID straps. Here's how you can make your own:

1. Draw a concept sketch of necklace. This should serve as your blueprint in creating the actual structure of necklace.
2. Cut strips of plastic folder to make plastic beads. Tape together to form a woven plastic bead.
3. Stick plastic scissors together to form a flower using scotch tape.
4. Make balls of rubber bands to form rubber beads. This is done by knotting different colors of rubber band.
5. Cut flower-shaped fabric using the pouch material and attach it to the ring binders to form dangling flowers.
6. Glue the letters to the foam and cover with tape.
7. Tie together both ID straps to form the necklace. Adjust desired length by adding ring binders formed into a chain to lengthen the necklace.
8. Put things together by attaching the beads and ornaments using the yarn.
9. Follow the sketch in forming the necklace. Check distance of each ornament so it will not look cluttered or too heavy both physically and on the eyes.

Check our Irene's Closet at 22 Aries St. Bel-Air Village, Makati City, Metro Manila. For appointments please call 0918-9357619. Visit www.irenescloset.com. Irene's accessories are also available at Schu.

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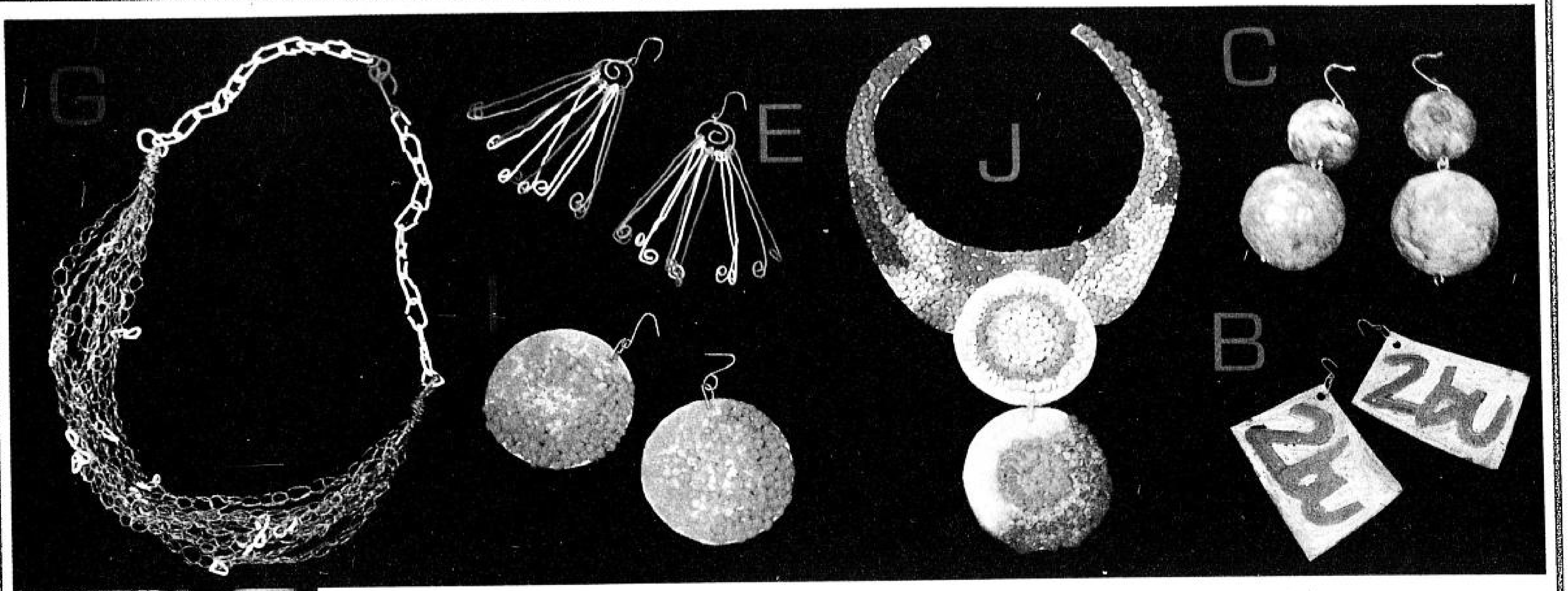
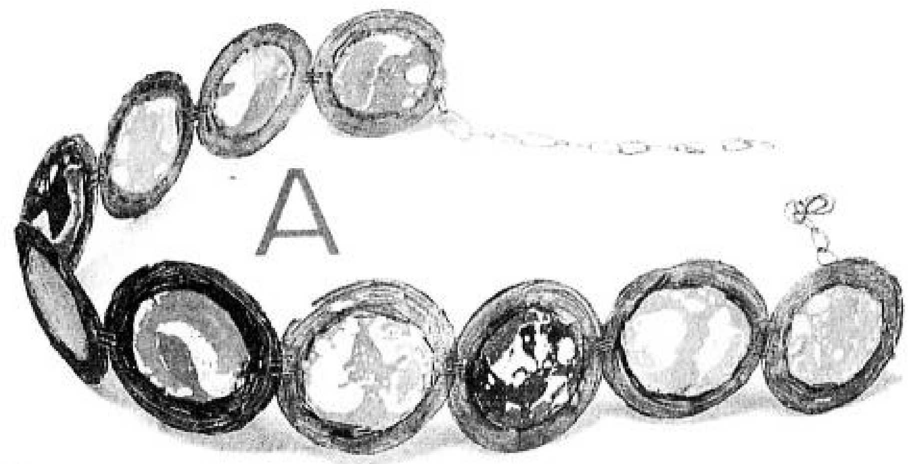
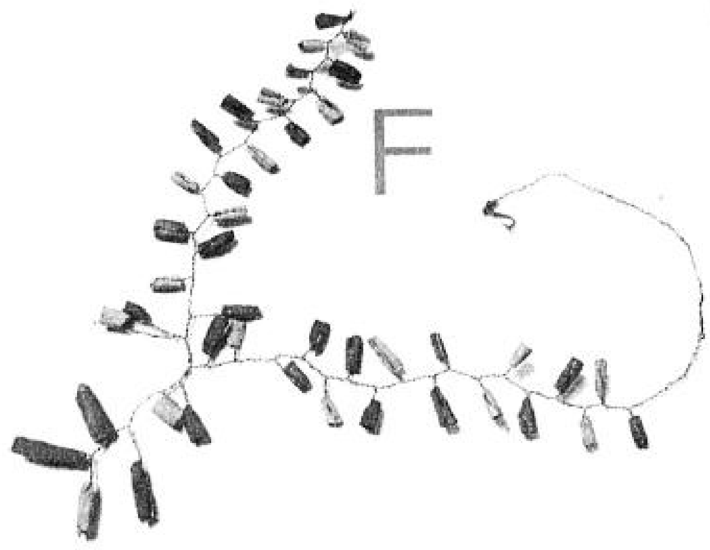
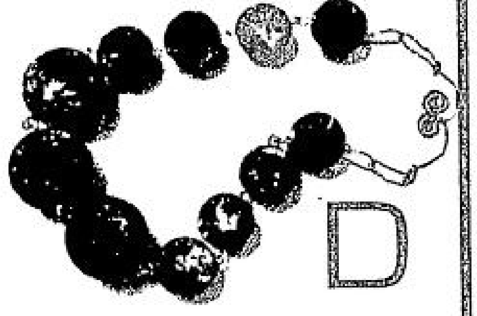
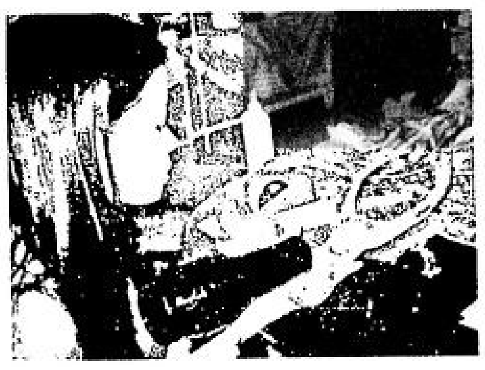






Cielo Frontreras





CIELO FRONTRERAS, A 2bU! Fashion Freaks favorite, made not one, not two but ten accessories. We think that's pretty cool.

A. Cielo made her Retro Belt with colored sand, paint, glue, staple wires, stapler, acetate and paper clips.

Here's how you can make it too:

1. Cut circles from acetate.
2. Glue colored sand in the middle. Let dry for a while.
3. Enclose the sand by gluing another piece of acetate.
4. Staple the sides.
5. Staple the circles together on the sides to form the belt.
6. Use paper clips to form the straps—use pliers to form a paper clip chain.

B. Cielo made her 2bU! Earrings with paint, acetate and paper clips. She says she was inspired by stained glass in churches.

Make your own earrings:

1. Cut acetate to desired shape.
2. Paint any design you want on the acetate.
3. Punch acetate on one side.
4. Use pliers to turn the paper clips into earring hooks.

C, D. Styro balls, paint and paper clips were all Cielo needed to create her Avocado Earrings and her "Wooden" necklace.

Here's how you can make your own:

1. Paint the styro balls with your desired color.
2. When dry, use pliers to unfold the paper clips.
3. Push the long pieces of paper clips through the styro balls and lock the ends in place.
4. Use pliers to make earring hooks. For the necklace, create clamps at the end with paper clips.

E. If you have a box of paper clips lying around at home, use it to create Spiral Paper Clip earrings like Cielo did.

1. Form spirals out of the paper clips.
2. Attach long strands with spiraled ends to the big spiral that you had formed.
3. Make earring hooks out of paper clips.

F. Use wire, Japanese paper and paper clips to make your own version of Cielo's Tree Branch Necklace.

1. Make beads using the Japanese paper—roll 1-cm strips and seal the ends with glue.
2. Twist the wire to form a tree branch shape.
3. Make a clasp using a paper clip.

G. To make the Mesh Necklace, Cielo used wire from scrapbooking kits, paper clips and a crochet hook.

1. Crochet the wire. It might be difficult because of the thickness of the wire.
2. Twist the ends together and make a round form at the end.
3. Make a chain out of paper clips to form the straps of the necklace. Attach the chain to the crocheted piece.
4. Make a clasp using paper clips.

H. Inspired by the peacock feather, Cielo made a Peacock Pendant out of colored sand, acetate and glue.

1. Cut acetate into the shape of a fan.
2. Put glue on the acetate and sprinkle with colored sand to form the peacock design.

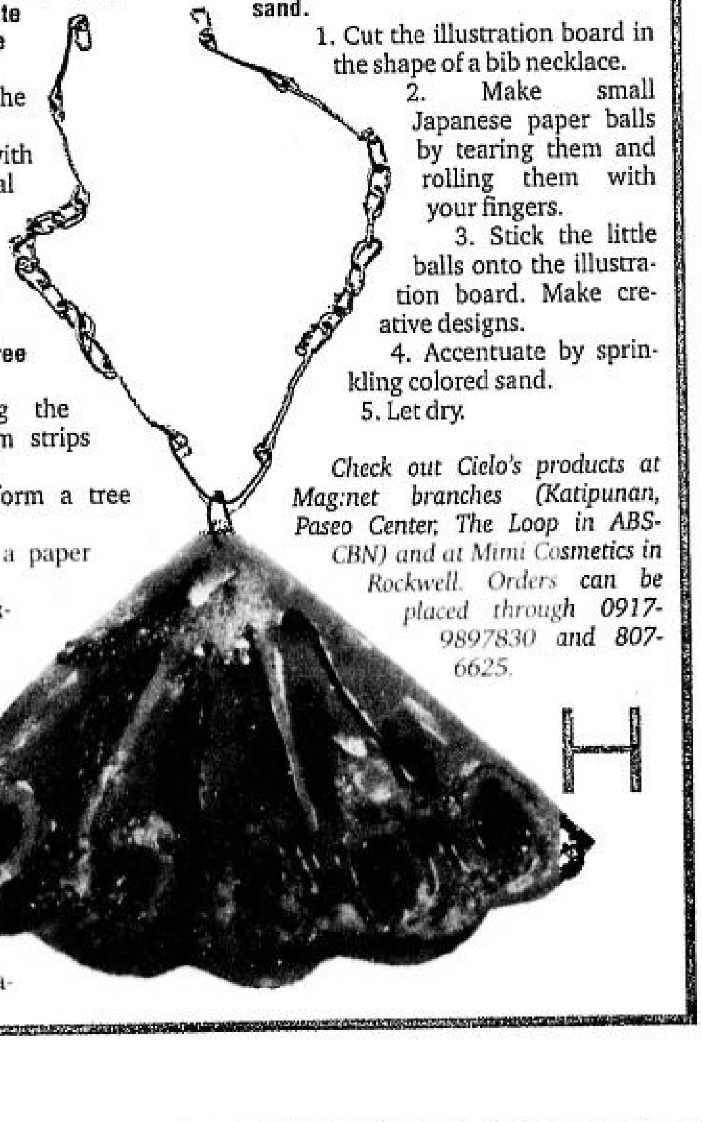
I. Lava Earrings can be made using colored sand, Japanese paper, illustration boards and paper clips.

1. Cut the illustration board into circles.
2. Put glue on the illustration board.
3. Roll yellow, orange and red Japanese paper strips into little balls.
4. Place the yellow-colored balls in the middle of the illustration board. Then add the orange and red balls.
5. Punch a hole on one side.
6. Make earring hooks and attach them to the holes of the illustration board.

J. Cielo's Bib Necklace is a beauty. To make your own, you will need Japanese paper, illustration boards, glue and colored sand.

1. Cut the illustration board in the shape of a bib necklace.
2. Make small Japanese paper balls by tearing them and rolling them with your fingers.
3. Stick the little balls onto the illustration board. Make creative designs.
4. Accentuate by sprinkling colored sand.
5. Let dry.

Check out Cielo's products at Mag:net branches (Katipunan, Paseo Center, The Loop in ABS-CBN) and at Mimi Cosmetics in Rockwell. Orders can be placed through 0917-9897830 and 807-6625.



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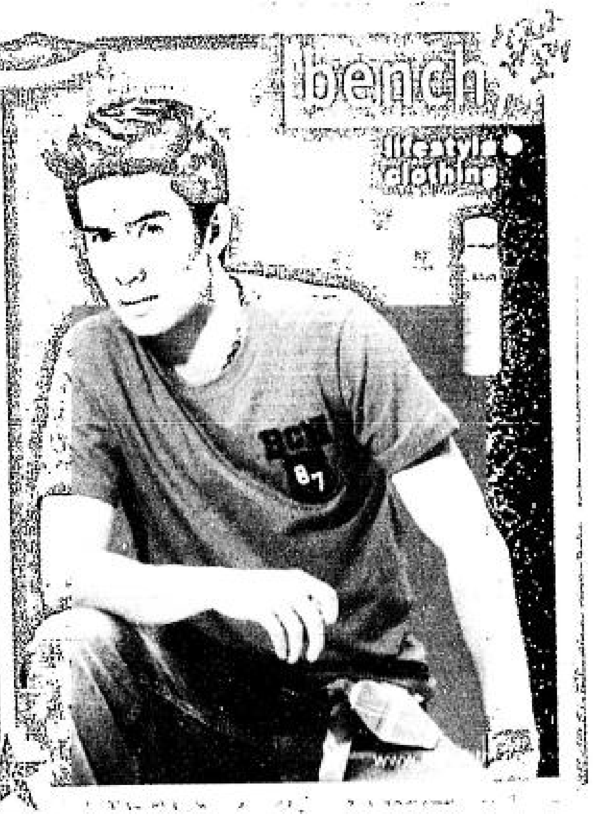
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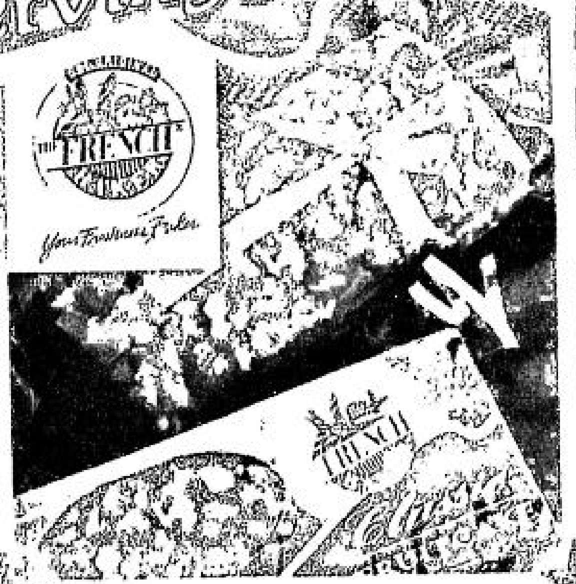
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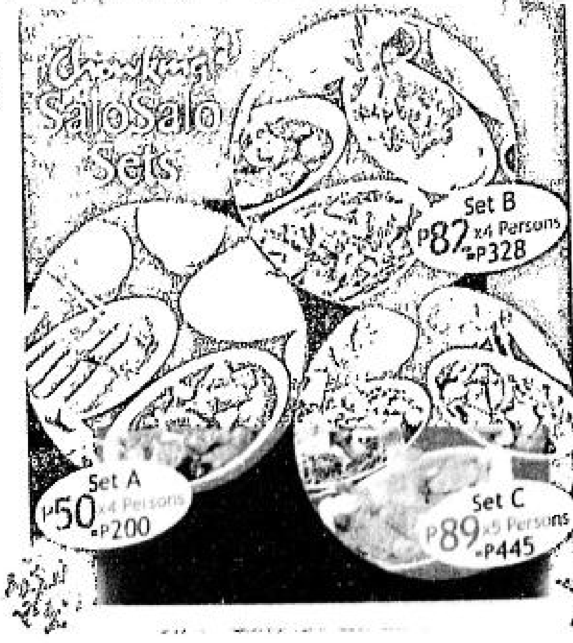
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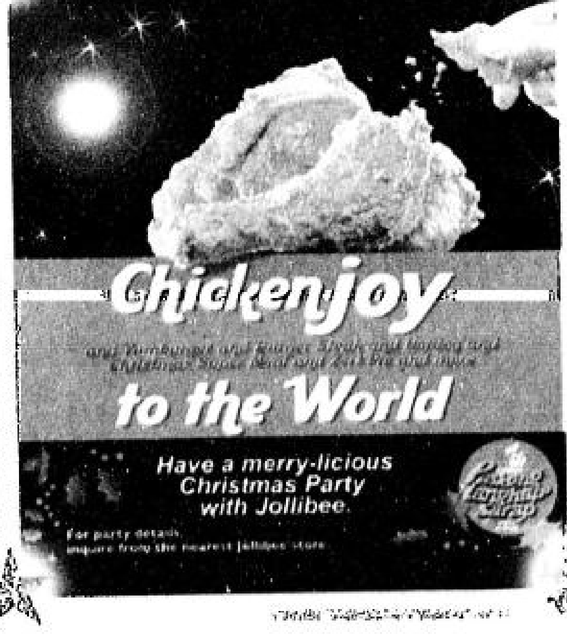
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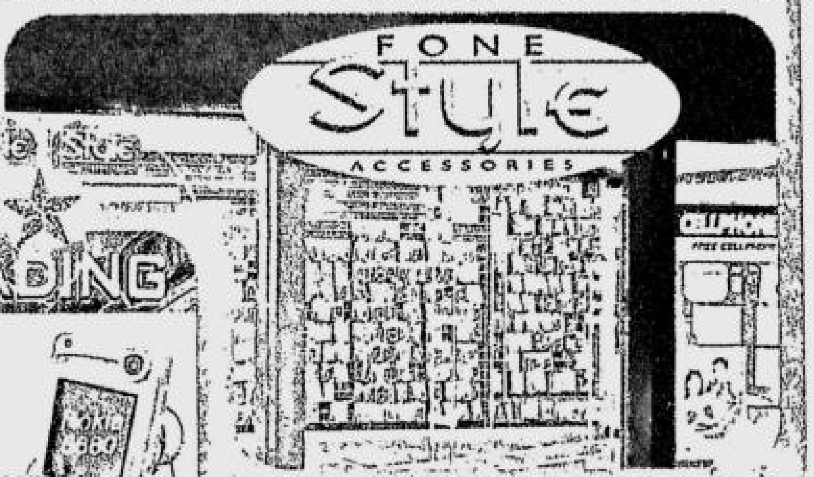

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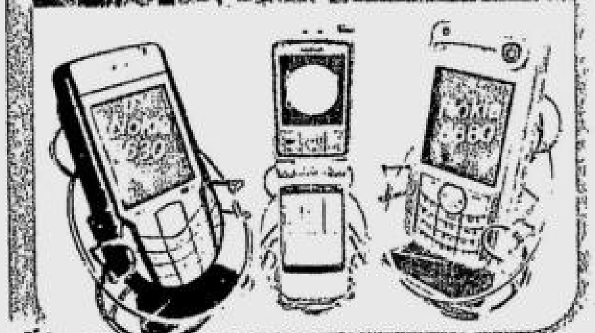

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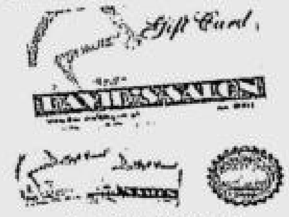

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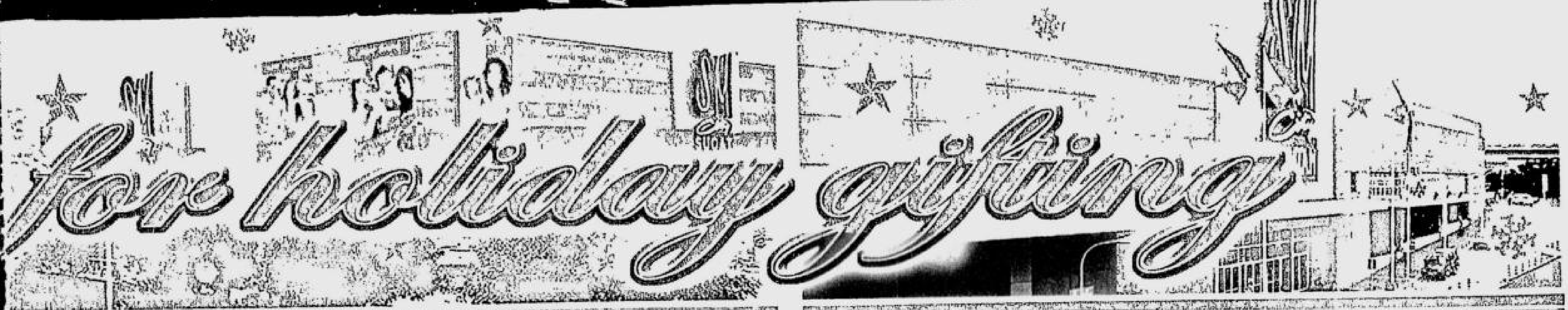

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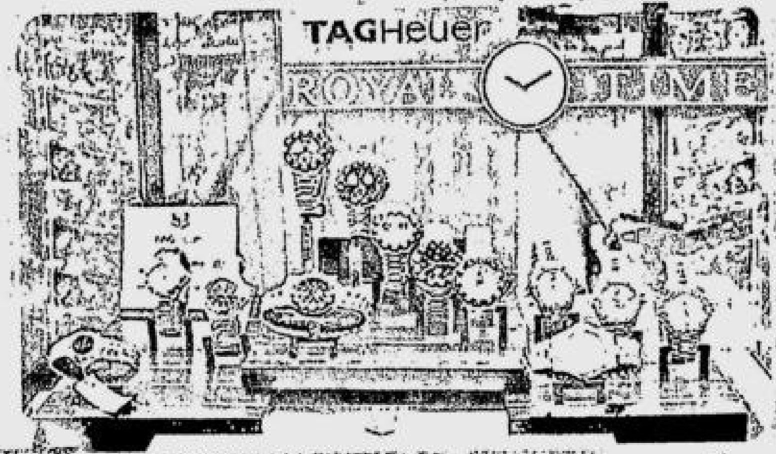

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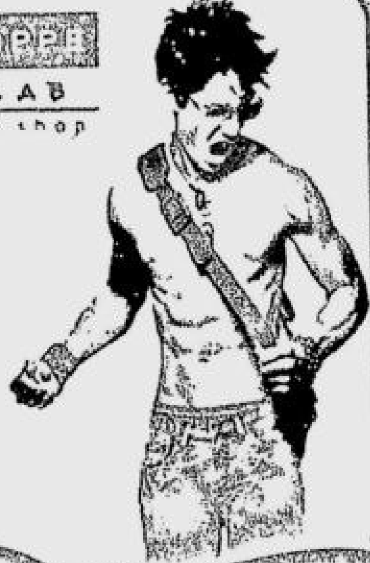

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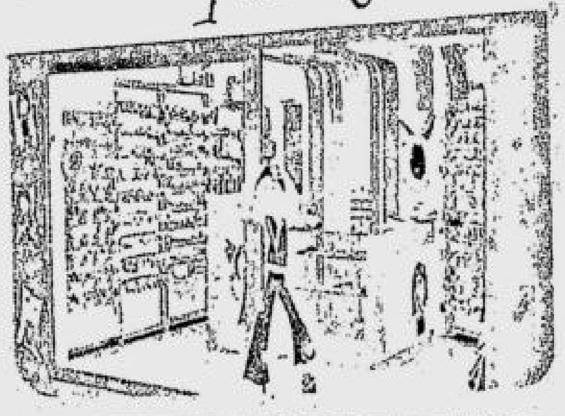

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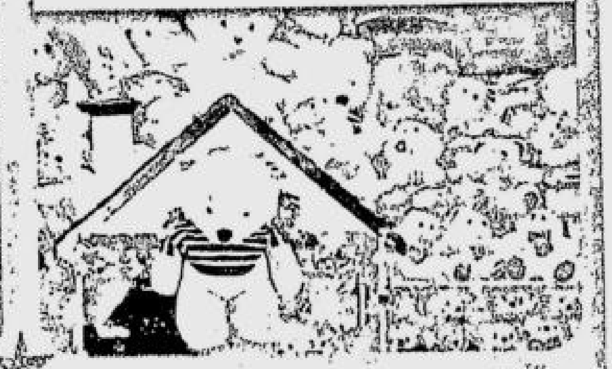

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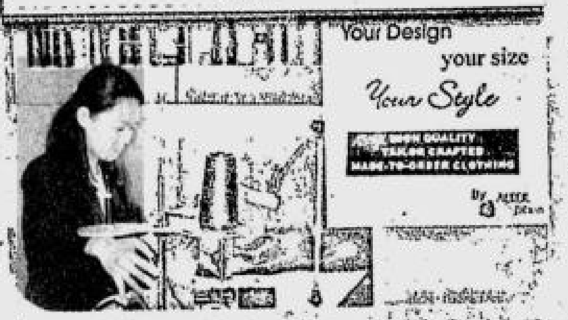

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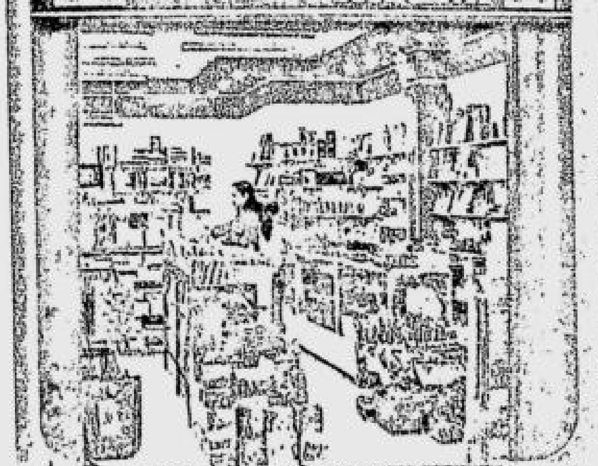

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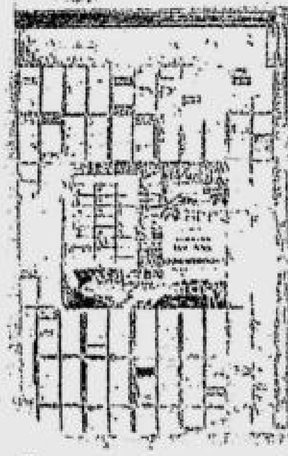

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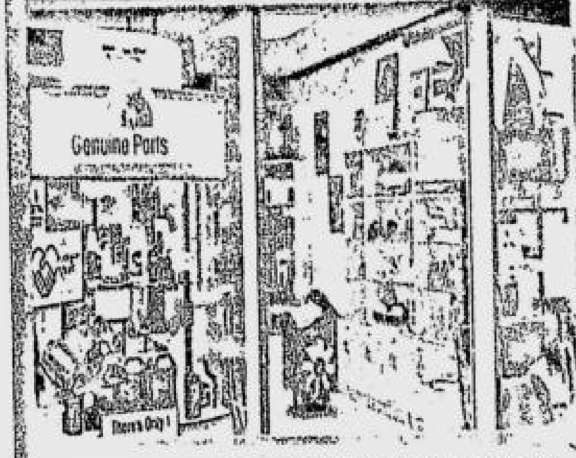

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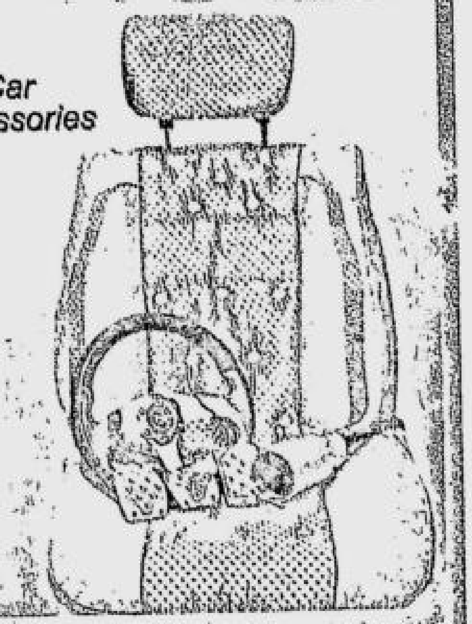

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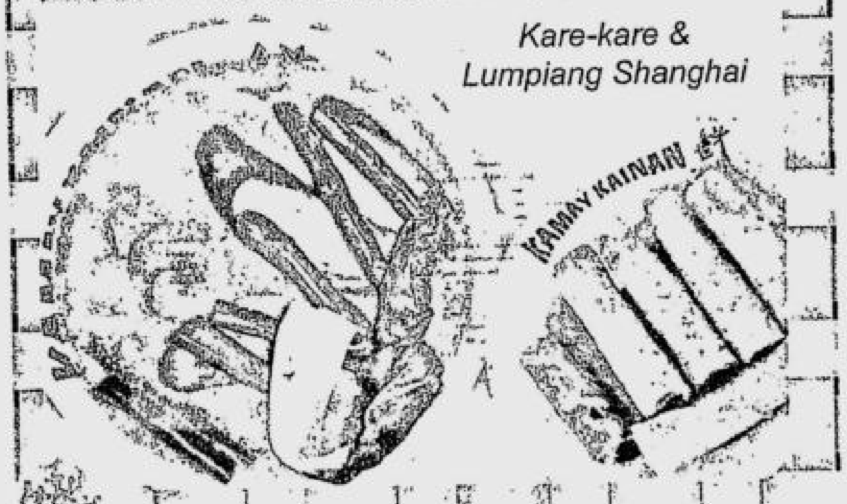
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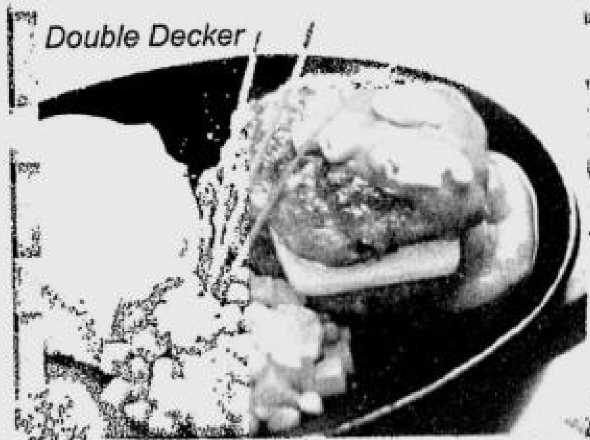

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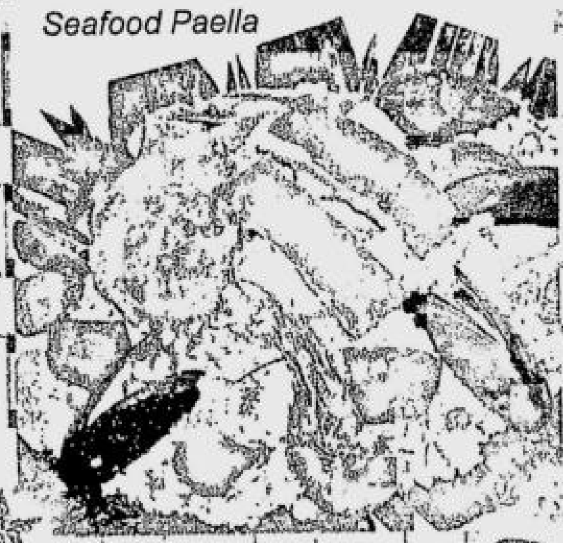

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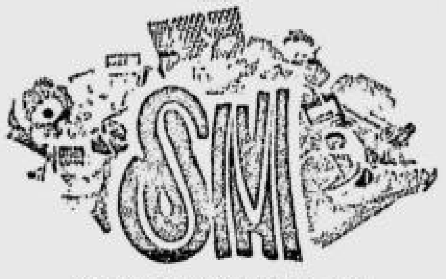

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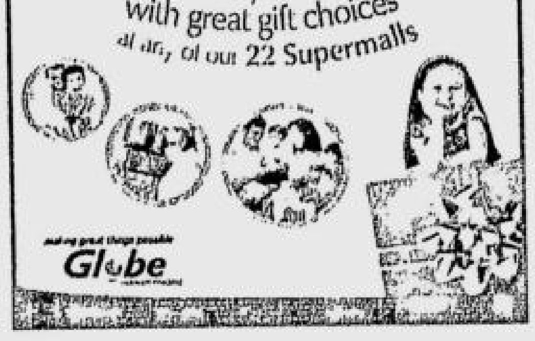

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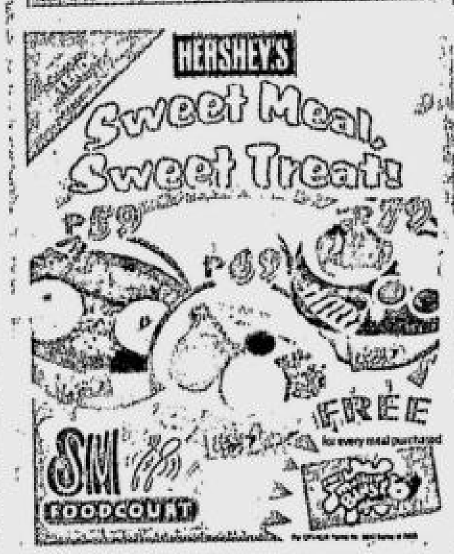
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